

Attractions

MAGAZINE

Fall 2017 • Volume 10, Issue 4 • \$5.99

**Hello Mickey & Minnie
Goodbye Great Movie Ride**

**Plus More D23
Expo Attraction
Announcements**

**Tribute to The
Great Movie Ride
and Universe
of Energy**

**Halloween Horror Nights
Show Director Q&A**

Nerd Bar Roundup

Disney's Wilderness Lodge



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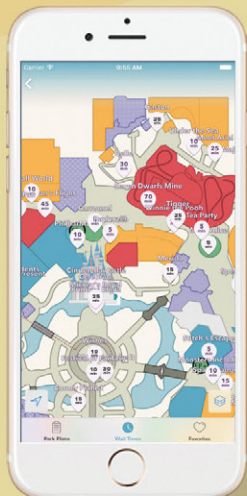
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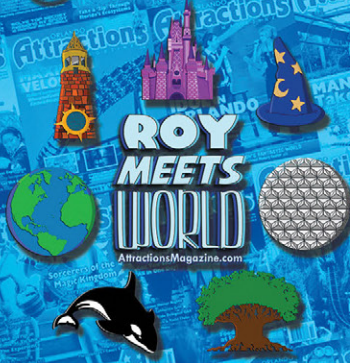
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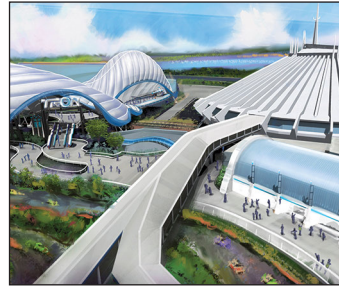
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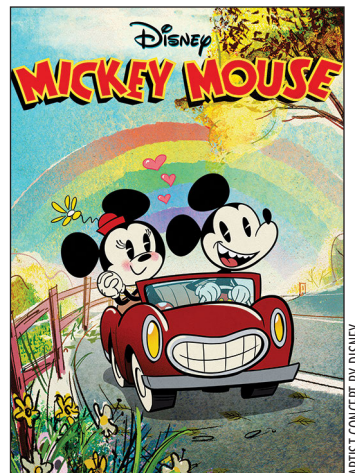
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WHAT'S NEW ON ATTRACTIONSMAGAZINE.com

By Banks Lee

Check our website regularly for more articles, plus many videos. Stay up-to-date with all the latest theme park and attraction news through our weekly video shows, our free iPhone/iPad app and our free e-mail newsletter.

D23 EXPO 2017

It was a big year for Disney Parks at the biennial D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif. Walt Disney World Resort alone got at least 12 announcements of new rides, updates, openings and more. There's so much, that we can't list them all here, so be sure to check out our feature story later in the issue, and go to our website and YouTube channel for all the news from all the Disney parks around the world! And while you're on YouTube, check out our many videos from around the Expo, including full panels, show floor tours, special events and more.



SAYING GOODBYE

As part of the new additions coming to Walt Disney World announced at D23 Expo, we learned two classic attractions would be closing for good. The Universe of Energy at Epcot and The Great Movie Ride at Disney's Hollywood Studios both closed Aug. 13 to make way for Guardians of the Galaxy and Mickey Mouse, respectively. After you read our tribute stories on page 38, head to our website and YouTube channel for looks at their final days, tributes, and even a final ride on Energy that doesn't go according to plan.



THE GREAT SHIRT DEBATE



It's a question many theme park fans in Orlando have wondered at one time or another: is it OK to wear a Disney T-shirt to Universal or vice-versa? We polled our social media followers recently and the results were a little surprising. Head to our website to see what people think about this fun debate.

EXPANSION DRIVE PODCAST



We recently debuted our first audio podcast called Expansion Drive. On it, hosts Mike Kerrigan (from our Daycation Kingdom vlog), Didi Francique and a weekly guest bring you news and discussion about everything fun, including theme parks, video games, television, movies, music and more. New episodes are released every Wednesday. You can find and listen to it on iTunes, Google Play and Podbean. A video version is also available on our YouTube channel.

LIVE FROM THE PARKS

Follow us on Twitter @Attractions, on Snapchat at AttractionsMag, on Instagram at attractionsmagazine and our Facebook page at facebook.com/attractionsmagazine. We frequently post on-the-spot information, photos and live videos while we're inside the theme parks. You can also see our latest videos if you subscribe to our YouTube channel at youtube.com/attractionsmagazine. Be sure to click on the bell icon to be notified when we post new videos.

We post a new show every day.

Sunday: The Weekly Rewind

Monday: Daycation Kingdom

Tuesday: Photo Finds, Roy Meets World

Wednesday: As Dreamers Do, Expansion Drive

Thursday: Attractions Magazine - The Show, Early Night Live

Friday: Attractions Adventures

Saturday: Blue Sky Beauty



BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE NOW!

HURRY BEFORE ALL ISSUES ARE SOLD OUT!

Many are still available at
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Vol. 1, Issue 1



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Summer 2009



Fall 2009



Winter 2009-10



Spring 2010



Summer 2010



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Spring 2014



Summer 2014



Fall 2014



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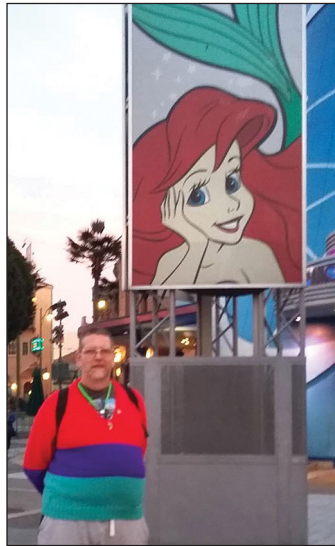
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My lovely hubby Charlie channelling his inner Ariel, thanks to the amazing knitting skills of my sister! This photo was taken at Disneyland Paris earlier this summer. — Carolyn Brooke-Millard



Mom and I at the Magic Kingdom! It was mom's first visit back since 2004. This was taken outside the Be Our Guest restaurant earlier this year. She loved the restaurant and connecting again with the park. — Kathleen Theresa



Had a magical time at Universal Studios! Even did some back-to-school shopping at Ollivanders. — Kayleen Parra-Padron



He's such a tall, dark, strong and handsome brute! — Claire Sneddon



Mom, you said South of the Border ... we thought you meant Mexico. — Austin Michael Costello



The mayor's wife decided her hat wasn't good enough. — Cynthia Ayala Maldonado



Mickey, you blinked! — Ben Rebstock



Going back to the '50s and '60s Era in Style!
— Cindy Borges



Nothing beats your first visit on your first birthday.
— Tracy Typinski



Where dreams come true! — Patrick McCord



We are out of Bort license plates in the gift shop.
— Crystal Basone



Follow me to the Food and Wine Festival. — Deme Grabert

WRITE TO US!

.....

We want your letters and photos!
If you have any comments
about the magazine, questions
about traveling to Orlando or fun
stories or photos to share,
simply e-mail us at
info@attractionsmagazine.com.



THEN & NOW

From Athletic City to a Chocolate Factory

By Matt Roseboom

Before it was the steampunk-looking factory it is today, it was a “city” with a huge athlete in front. The Toothsome Chocolate Emporium & Savory Feast Kitchen building at Universal Orlando CityWalk used to house NBA City Restaurant. Of course, NBA City was a restaurant, arcade and gift shop themed to the National Basketball Association. Although it’s hard to tell, most of the old NBA City building was used when building Toothsome. We’ve also included the concept art Universal

released when the Chocolate Emporium was announced in 2015. Notice the restaurant was originally going to be named Toothsome Chocolate Factory & Savory Feast Emporium. It’s speculated Universal took “factory” out of the name so as not to be mistaken as a Willy Wonka-themed restaurant. Fans of NBA City will be happy to know an NBA Experience restaurant and arcade is coming to Disney Springs where DisneyQuest used to be.

THEN



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VACATION PLANNER

Upcoming Orlando-area attractions and events you may want to plan your vacation around.

By Banks Lee

COMING SOON

FAST & FURIOUS: SUPERCHARGED

Location: Universal Studios Florida, formerly Disaster!

Opening Date: Spring 2018

Guests will explore the headquarters of Toretto and his team and even get to check out some of the supercharged cars they've seen on the big screen. Then, they'll board specially-designed vehicles and take off on an adventure with the film stars.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY RIDE

Location: Epcot, formerly Universe of Energy

Opening Date: By 2021

Epcot will have a brand new E-ticket attraction within Future World, based on the rockin' and action-packed world of Guardians of the Galaxy.

INFINITY FALLS

Location: SeaWorld Orlando, formerly SEAGarden area

Opening Date: Summer 2018

Infinity Falls will be a new rapids ride that will send guests twisting and turning through a jungle environment. A unique vertical elevator will lift each raft for a dramatic launch into the river, 40 feet below, making it the world's tallest river rapid drop.

RATATOUILLE RIDE

Location: Epcot, France Pavilion

Opening Date: By 2021

A new Ratatouille-inspired attraction will take guests on a dazzling chase across a kitchen with the sights, sounds and smells of Gusteau's Parisian restaurant. Patterned after the attraction at Disneyland Paris, the new attraction will open in an all-new space in the France pavilion.

SESAME STREET LAND

Location: SeaWorld Orlando, to replace Shamu's Happy Harbor (still open)

Opening Date: Fall 2022

As part of the continued partnership between SeaWorld Entertainment and Sesame Workshop, a new Sesame Street-themed land will be built.



STAR WARS: GALAXY'S EDGE

Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios, formerly Streets of America and Lights, Motors, Action!

Opening Date: 2019

Guests will be transported to a remote trading port and right in the middle of a battle between the First Order and the Resistance. Guests will also have the chance to fly the Millennium Falcon, where each person is critical to the mission's success. The large land will also include a variety of characters, including BB-8, Chewbacca, Rex and Kylo Ren.

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS MINILAND

Location: Legoland Florida Resort

Opening Date: 2018

A new Lego Star Wars: The Force Awakens Miniland display will feature several scenes re-created with thousands of Lego bricks, enhanced with lights, sound effects and animation.

STAR WARS-THEMED HOTEL

Location: Unknown

Opening Date: Unknown

This new Star Wars-themed hotel will be the most experiential concept ever. Guests will have a one-of-a-kind experience where a luxury resort meets a multi-day adventure in a galaxy far, far away.

NEW LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THEATER

Location: Magic Kingdom, off Main Street, U.S.A.

Opening Date: Unknown

This new venue will be based on the iconic Willis Theater in the 1920s Kansas City, where Walt lived after he left Marceline.

TOY STORY LAND

Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios, formerly Backlot Tour

Opening Date: Summer 2018

This 11-acre land will transport guests into Andy's backyard. The new area will include a Slinky Dog family roller coaster and an Alien saucers ride.

TRON LIGHTCYCLE POWER RUN COASTER

Location: Magic Kingdom, formerly unused land next to Space Mountain

Opening Date: Unknown

The highest-rated attraction at Shanghai Disneyland is coming to Tomorrowland.

UPDATED CHINA FILM

Location: Epcot, China Pavilion

Opening Date: Unknown

To showcase the splendor and majesty of China, the current film will be replaced by a new seamless Circle-Vision 360° film.

SPACE-THEMED RESTAURANT

Location: Epcot, next to Mission: Space

Opening Date: Unknown

A new table-service restaurant will invite guests to travel high above the Earth for an unforgettable dining experience surrounded by space.

DISNEY SKYLINER TRANSPORTATION

Location: Various Disney World locations

Opening Date: Unknown

This new transportation system will give guests a bird's-eye view of Walt Disney World. This new gondola ride will connect Epcot and Hollywood Studios to four resorts — Art of Animation, Pop Century and Caribbean Beach, as well as the proposed 15th Disney Vacation Club property, Disney Riviera Resort.

MICKEY AND MINNIE'S RUNAWAY RAILWAY

Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios, formerly The Great Movie Ride

Opening Date: Unknown

Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway will feature an original story that will take guests on a journey inside the world of the current Mickey Mouse cartoon shorts using new technologies that turn the flat cartoon world into a three-dimensional display.

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD

Location: Universal Orlando Resort, location unknown

Opening Date: Unknown

Universal Parks & Resorts will bring the fun of Nintendo games to life in an expansive, highly-themed environment. Guests will feel as if they are playing inside their favorite Nintendo games.

EVENTS

Mickey's Not So Scary Halloween Party

Magic Kingdom

Select dates, Aug. 25 to Nov. 1

Halloween Horror Nights

Universal Studios Florida

Select dates, Sept. 15 to Nov. 4

Howl-O-Scream

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay

Select dates, Sept. 22 to Oct. 29

Halloween Spooktacular

SeaWorld Orlando

Weekends, Sept. 23 to Oct. 29

Brick or Treat

Legoland Florida

Select dates, Oct. 14 to 31

Sesame Street Weekends

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay

Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 7 to 29

Spooky Empire

Hyatt Regency Orlando

Oct. 27 to 29

International Food & Wine Festival

Epcot

Aug. 31 to Nov. 13

Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party

Magic Kingdom

Select dates, Nov. 9 to Dec. 22

Holidays at Universal Orlando

Universal Orlando Resort

Nov. 18 to Jan. 6, 2018

SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration

SeaWorld Orlando

Select dates, Nov. 24 to Dec. 31

Christmas Bricktacular

Legoland Florida

Select dates in December

Christmas Town

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay

Select dates, Nov. 18 to Dec. 31

.....
All events and dates are subject to change. Please check with the proper organization before attending. Check our calendar section at AttractionsMagazine.com for up-to-date happenings in the Orlando area.



NEWS IN THE QUEUE

By Quinn Roseboom



WOLFGANG GONE, WOLFGANG APPEARS

LOCATION: Disney Springs

The Wolfgang Puck Grand Café in West Side is now closed. But a new Wolfgang Puck concept will open in Town Center. The “Wolfgang Puck Bar & Grill” is said to modernize the traditional bar and grill concept in a setting inspired by traditional farmhouses, with a touch of elegance. Jaleo, a concept by Chef José Andrés’ ThinkFoodGroup will open in the former Grand Café location. They’ll feature a menu of tapas that reflect traditional and contemporary Spanish cuisine.

EXPRESS TRANSPORTATION ENDED

LOCATION: Walt Disney World



Express Transportation was a short-lived service which offered special buses to pick up and drop off guests inside the Disney parks, bypassing extra security checks for an extra fee. Disney said most people preferred other transportation options, so they ended the service. The new Minnie Van service also launched around the time they ended this service.

ONE MAN’S NEW DREAM

LOCATION: Disney’s Hollywood Studios



Guests can now view models of Star Wars: Galaxy’s Edge and Toy Story Land in a renamed and remodeled One Man’s Dream. “Walt Disney Presents” is pretty much the same attraction it’s always been, but with the back half re-constructed to show off new and upcoming attractions headed to the park. Historic items from Walt Disney’s past continue to be showcased, as well as the Star-Lord meet and greet, and the preview theater for upcoming films.

WE WANT THE ... RED CHAIR FOR \$50?

LOCATION: Magic Kingdom, Disneyland Park and Disneyland Paris

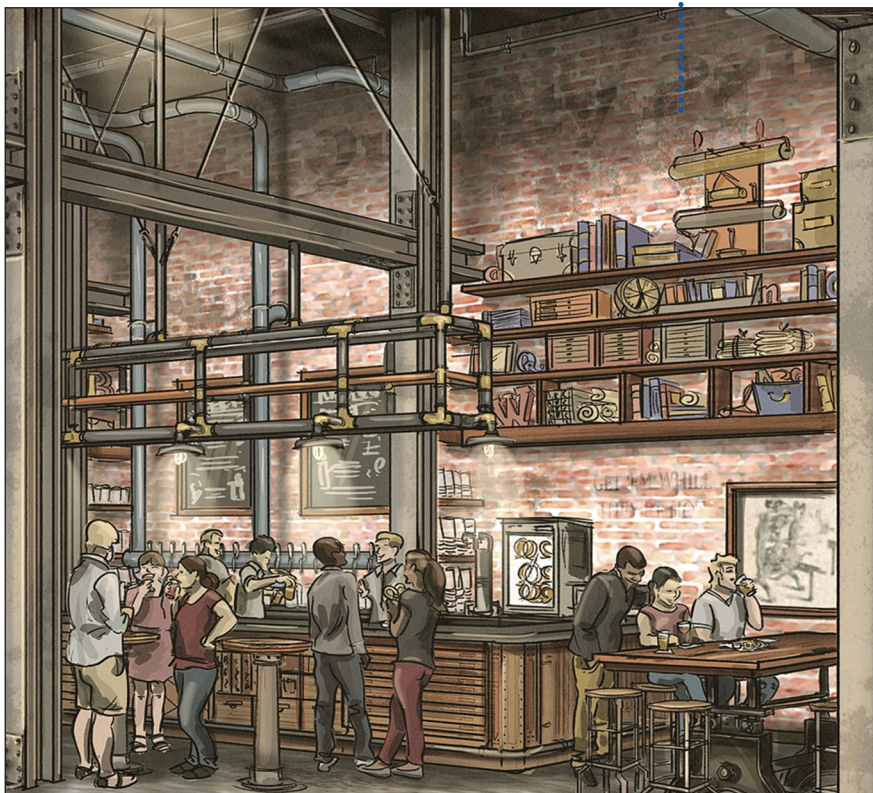


The famous auction scene with the redhead in the Pirates of the Caribbean ride is changing. The redhead will still be there, but in a new role in which she has joined the pirates and is helping them auction off the local townspeople's items at the Mercado auction. The Disneyland Paris version of the ride has already been updated, with Disneyland's and Disney World's attractions set to be refurbished sometime next year.



A NEW GRAND REVEAL

LOCATION: Disney's Hollywood Studios



The new Grand Avenue area at Disney's Hollywood Studios will open this fall adjacent to Muppets Courtyard, and is intended to capture the spirit of present-day Downtown Los Angeles. A section of the former Streets of America façades will be turned into vintage office buildings and warehouses, which represent the different districts and cultures of L.A. To fit in with this new area, the Muppet*Vision 3D theater was recently renamed Grand Arts Theatre and received a new marquee. A key feature of Grand Avenue will be the BaseLine Tap House, a corner pub specializing in beer and wines from California.

TWO-STORY STORY

LOCATION: Orlando Florida



New City Sightseeing Orlando double-decker buses connect the main attractions of Central Florida with hop-on, hop-off options at Universal Orlando, Disney Springs, SeaWorld Orlando, International Drive and more.

TRAVELING IN POLKA-DOTTED STYLE

LOCATION: Walt Disney World



A new mode of transportation that can take you anywhere on Disney property is now available. It's called Minnie Van and its stylish vehicles and friendly cast members are available for a flat fee of \$20 per trip. You can summon the vehicles using the Lyft app.

GAME OVER

LOCATION: Disney Springs



The interactive indoor theme park, DisneyQuest, has closed its doors after 19 years of operation. The space has begun its transformation into the NBA Experience, a one-of-a-kind basketball-themed attraction featuring hands-on activities and a restaurant.

SPONSORSHIP EARTH

LOCATION: Epcot



After 12 years, Siemens has ended their sponsorship of the park's iconic Spaceship Earth attraction and Illuminations: Reflections of Earth. No changes have been announced.

GOODBYE DRAGONS, HELLO CREATURE THRILLS

LOCATION:
Universal's
Islands
of Adventure

A new generation of thrill ride is coming to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter — Hogsmeade in 2019, replacing Dragon Challenge. This new highly-themed family coaster will take you deeper into J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World, where you will encounter some of your favorite characters and creatures. The Dragon Challenge coaster was permanently closed on Sept. 5 to make way for the new ride.



SOARIN' AROUND THE EARTH

LOCATION: Epcot

After two months of updates and renovations, Mission: Space officially reopened with an all-new adventure. The Orange Mission's visuals have been updated, and a new mission was added to the less intense Green side. The Green Mission takes you on an orbit around planet Earth via the Kennedy Space Center. The attraction also has a new preshow featuring actress Gina Torres, instead of Gary Sinise.



STAR WARS SPRINGS VR

LOCATION: Disney Springs and Downtown Disney



The Star Wars Universe is virtually coming to Disney Springs and Downtown Disney this holiday season in a brand new virtual reality experience. A VR company called The Void will create a brand new experience center to showcase their first collaboration with Industrial Light & Magic called Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire. You will be completely untethered from wires as you freely roam a tactile VR experience. Imagine stepping onto a platform over lava in Mustafar and feeling the heat from below. When playing the game, you'll also hold a physical blaster to amplify the real effects of the virtual world. Part of the Once Upon a Toy store recently closed, moving its merchandise into the former Fun Finds store to make room for the VR experience.

A FINAL FAREWELL TOUR, DUDES!

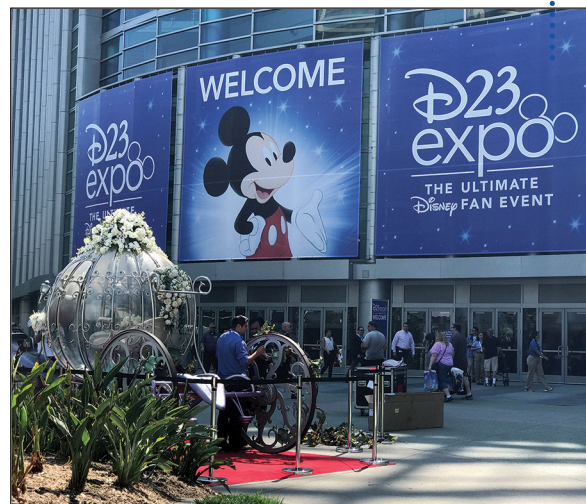
LOCATION : Universal Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights.



After 26 years, Bill and Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventures will end after Halloween Horror Nights this year. It has not yet been announced what may replace the yearly show, or if Fear Factor Live, the show that usually performs in the theater, will return. Rumors point to the area being demolished and used for future expansions.

D23 EXPO OVERLOAD

LOCATION : Walt Disney World



Many new attractions were announced at this year's D23 Expo. For more information, read our story on page 33.

- New Main Street theater
- Magic Kingdom's Tron coaster
- Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway at Disney's Hollywood Studios
- Guardians of the Galaxy attraction at Epcot
- Epcot Future World Blue Sky concept
- Mission: Space restaurant
- New China pavilion movie
- Epcot's Ratatouille ride
- Disney Vacation Club Riviera Resort
- Gondola transportation
- Star Wars immersive hotel

MINE-BLOWN

LOCATION:

Kissimmee

Fun Spot Kissimmee's newest roller coaster, Mine Blower, is the only wooden coaster in the state of Florida to make an upside down inversion. The gold mine-themed wood and steel hybrid coaster has banked turns, the zero gravity inversion, a lift height of 83 feet, and 12 airtime moments.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ-SUBLIME IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

THIS SOURCE OF ENERGY HAS RUN OUT - NO MORE MOVIE RIDES

LOCATION : Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios



PHOTO BY BANKS LEE

Ellen's Energy Adventure and The Great Movie Ride both closed for good this past August, making way for the upcoming Guardians of the Galaxy ride, and Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway, respectively. Read more about them on page 33.



PHOTO FINDS

Orlando is always filled with fun things to see and our photographers are there to capture it all.



Three different ceremonies were held in the world of theme parks. The **grand opening** for **Pandora - The World of Avatar** was held in late May at Disney's Animal Kingdom. Disney CEO Bob Iger was joined by many of the movie's cast members, including filmmaker James Cameron and actresses Sigourney Weaver and Zoe Saldana. Across Orlando at the same time was the **grand opening** of **Volcano Bay** water park at Universal Orlando. It featured Universal Orlando President Bill Davis surrounded by a group of South Pacific dancers. Across the world in early June, Super Mario himself was joined by Universal and Nintendo officials for the **groundbreaking** of **Super Nintendo World** at Universal Studios Japan. The video game-themed land is also coming to Universal in Orlando and Hollywood.



A brand new summer event was held at **SeaWorld Orlando** and San Diego. In Orlando, **Electric Ocean** featured food and beverage booths, a bubble show called "Pop", a **dance party** with intermittent entertainment such as an **Extreme Beam** laser light performer, and the **Ignite nighttime spectacular**.

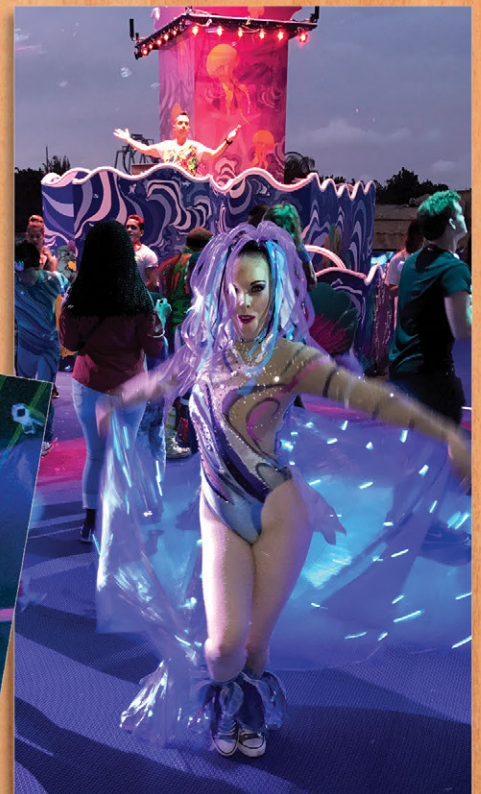


PHOTO BY BANKS LEE



With the announced closing of **The Great Movie Ride** at Disney's Hollywood Studios, both the **Disney Parks Blog** and Disney's D23 official fan club offered select guests the opportunity to walk the track of the ride, complete with **special characters** and food and drinks.



Disney's **D23 Expo** in Anaheim, Calif. allowed guests to be immersed in all things Disney for three days in July. Some decided to create and wear some **elaborate costumes**, while others just enjoyed the panels and activities on the show floor, such as being able to jump into **Scrooge McDuck's Money Bin**.

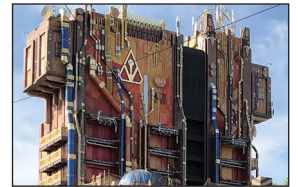
VS. VERSUS

We put attractions head-to-head.

By Quinn Roseboom



The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror has always been a staple thrill ride at both Disneyland and Walt Disney World. But now that Guardians of the Galaxy — Mission Breakout has replaced Disney California Adventure's Twilight Zone attraction, which coast's tower reigns supreme?



TOWER OF TERROR

VS.

MISSION: BREAKOUT

STORYLINE

winner



Tower of Terror's original storyline with the pairing of the classic television show is the perfect combo for a winning experience.



While Mission: Breakout's story is fun and fast paced, it just doesn't fit in with the movie's timeline. If Mantis is picking them up, how does Peter still have his Walkman?

MUSIC



The Twilight Zone's theme song is iconic, but doesn't even remotely compare to Mission: Breakout's soundtrack.



Mission: Breakout has a killer line up of musical artists including The Jackson Five and Elvis Presley. To top it all off, some of the ride's drop patterns are synced with the music to add even more to the experience.

THRILLS



tie



Tower's randomized drop patterns and Breakout's randomized song list and visuals both make sure you get a fresh experience every time.

QUEUE



The Hollywood Tower Hotel is host to an array of detailed trinkets from the hotel, and Twilight Zone episodes. But unfortunately, unless you've really dove deep into the show's past, you likely won't recognize any of them.



Marvel is famous for hidden Easter eggs and references throughout its properties and the queue is chock-full of both easy-to-spot and hidden ones. Be sure to keep an eye out for Stan Lee!

MOOD



tie



Both attractions are excellent at conveying the feeling of being in their intellectual property's universe. Tower is creepy and makes you feel like you're the newest resident of The Twilight Zone, while Mission: Breakout puts you right in the middle of one of the Guardian's larger-than-life battles, complete with classic music from Earth's past.

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Patrick Braillard: The Art of Making Things Go Horribly Wrong

Patrick Braillard's job as show director for Universal Entertainment, Art and Design is to create Halloween Horror Nights mazes and scare zones whose concept ends with, "and then, everybody dies." By challenging guests to face their greatest fears and immersing them in the bloody heart of a horror story, Patrick has had a hand in changing the way Halloween is perceived

around the world. Meet the man whose creative inclinations are gentle enough to be best buddies with Curious George and wicked enough to unleash a murderous werewolf on guests.

Tell us a bit about your background, and how you got into the theme park business.

I'm originally from Seattle, Wash. and I graduated from college in 2000. I

became a professional actor and director in the Seattle area, and I had been doing that until 2004, when my wife got a job in Orlando. We came down and I worked at Disney for about a year before getting an acting role at Universal Orlando. I was with the opening team for Fear Factor Live, and I made people eat bugs for a living. In 2007, I became a performance captain for the street performers for Halloween Horror Nights, and in 2008 and 2009, I was brought back seasonally on the concept team, as well as for show direction for the mazes. In 2010, I became a full time show director with Creative Development.

What was your most enjoyable experience before you got into Halloween Horror Nights?

Being a brand-new team member and being part of the opening of a venue is always going to be special in my heart. I got my start at Fear Factor Live, and I did about 2,500 shows there before I became part of the Halloween team. The creative development team we have is tasked with Halloween as part of our marquee events, but we are also tasked with any new developments, so when Diagon Alley came online, we did the entertainment for that area, and when Raptor Encounter came on, we did that. Any time new entertainment comes up in the park, we're responsible.

What other roles have you played at Universal?

During down time at Fear Factor Live, I would get trained at various roles around the park, so I was also a Shrek villager, I was The Man With the Yellow Hat at Curious George Goes to Town, and I was trained in the Horror Makeup Show,



One of Braillard's best memories at Universal Orlando was being part of the opening team for Fear Factor Live, which required daredevil volunteers to take part in a manic mixture of stunts and challenges: "I made people eat bugs for a living!"

but I only did one show before I got pulled to do Halloween stuff. I think I might be the only actor on property who can say I only did one approved show at Horror Makeup before getting pulled away.

What were your responsibilities when you became a performance captain?

The performance captain role name has shifted and they're now called performance coordinators. The role is part cheerleader, part creative consultant, as well as a show-quality expert for various portions of the Halloween event. The show directors and concept teams come up with all the thematics built into the houses, scare zones and shows. The assistant show directors are onsite to make creative calls during the course of the event, whether it's to help somebody's safety, move a scareactor, or help provide direction so that they are able engage the guest in a different way and increase the impact of the experience on the guest. We want to make sure they have every tool necessary to affect the guest as much as possible, but we don't want that part of the process to be seen. We want it to feel like a visceral experience that's happening in the moment, and that it hasn't had 13 or 14 months of planning. Our role makes sure the cast for a scare zone or a maze really feel they're an ensemble, and they're all working toward



Braillard has taken part in many different roles for Universal, including their yearly Mardi Gras parade.

a greater goal, which is to scare the bejeezus out of people. Our success stems from the scareactors themselves, rather than the direction they're receiving. It sounds clichéd to say, but they are really the life-blood of the event. They are the most dedicated characters we have at our disposal, and they have to work extremely hard to do what they do.

Do you have any amusing memories from working with scareactors?

One year, the scareactors were scaring guests so badly, that people were jumping out of their shoes and running out of the scare zone. They knew they had to take the shoes to Lost and Found at the end of the night, but in the interim, they would tie the laces around their necks and carry the shoes of their victims around while they were on set, daring people to come back and get them.

Fear Factor Live focused on things that challenge people. Did you find your experience there useful when you moved to Halloween Horror Nights?

Psychologically speaking, I think it helps Horror Nights because you see the different things people are afraid of. Not every person is scared by the same thing, which is wonderful because it allows Horror Nights to affect guests "constantly differently." That's a good thing this year, because the event is going on for such a long time, and we'll be able to display all of the different things we've got.

Have you always been a fan of the horror genre?

Yes. I'm the youngest of three, and my parents really didn't censor anything I watched. They didn't push me towards horror, but I was inclined to watch because it's so taboo, and it's so bloody,

and it's not like anything else. My siblings were into action movies and Hollywood blockbusters, and my sister is absolutely terrified of clowns. When I did the *Carnage Returns* show with Jack the Clown, I sent her a video of Jack saying "hello" to her. But I made sure that, on the preview of the video, it was me saying "Hi" to her first, then I turned the camera and Jack told her he was going to be hiding underneath her bed. What fun! Having a sister is awesome.

What was your first experience of Halloween Horror Nights, either as a guest or as somebody working the event?



Now the show director for Universal's Halloween Horror Nights program, Braillard is responsible for all the live entertainment elements of the haunted houses and scare zones, and remains a big fan of the horror movie genre.

My first experience as a guest was in 2005, and the thing that struck me — and that still strikes me to this day — is the potential we have to change the environment that the guests see, feel and interact with. When you walk through, you appreciate the lighting, the audio, the scareactors, and the thematics, but what a lot of people don't realize is that the external change has occurred within one hour, because of our tech teams. With the flip of a switch, we go from having wonderful parades and day-time experiences to a place of nightmares, and that is something that is always going to be inspiring for us. It allows us to keep the event

evolving. Being on the inside of it now, I have a greater appreciation for it.

What makes the ideal Halloween Horror Nights maze?

If I were to build it like a recipe, it needs to start with a good story. Second, you've got to place it in a location that is memorable and all-encompassing. You have to place the guests in an environment that feels as if it is real. Third, you have to place dedicated performers inside of it, who know how to scare, and enjoy scaring people. Then you have to add in music and sound effects that are key toward the end of those scares. The lighting has to be on par so that you see just enough to not know whether you've seen everything. Then there's some stuff we like to do, and tricks we like to pull on guests that, hopefully, if we're doing our job right, they don't know we've gotten away with, that adds in that extra little Halloween flair we like to provide. Bake it at 350 degrees for 13 months and see what happens!

How has Halloween Horror Nights evolved over the years?

The original mazes and the original storytelling we have done since the very beginning still hold true today. We love creating original stories and providing something guests can't get anywhere else. That being said, there's a lot of fun in being able to play with "American Horror Story" and "The Shining". Getting the opportunity in years past to drive "The Exorcist", or "American Werewolf in London", or "The Thing", and now we get to bring in "Ash vs Evil Dead" and "The Shining". Being able to serve "The Shining" as a maze is a fantastic, exciting thing. Last year we had "American Horror Story" and we showcased three episodes. This year, it's in Soundstage 21 and it's an uber-maze. It's the biggest maze we have this year, and it's showcasing "Asylum", "Coven", and "Roanoke". The three seasons we've picked this year are fantastic, because they're so varied. There is something different for everybody to be scared of in that maze. It's a lot of fun partnering with Fox and Ryan Murphy's team on the way we're going to impact guests, as well as carrying on the style and the storytelling they have done so well on that show.



Patrick and his Halloween Horror Nights co-worker Mike Aiello, left, took a break from the “scare factor” to help with the opening of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter: Diagon Alley in 2014.



Brailard being interviewed by our Show reporter Amanda during opening night of Halloween Horror Nights 21 in 2011.

You mentioned “The Shining” is a maze you’re excited about. What makes it special?

“The Shining” is one of the most defining moments for me as a fan, and I’m really excited because we’re doing stuff in the maze that we haven’t done before, or we’re doing better than we’ve ever done before. If you’re a fan of that film, you’re going to see key moments from the film in the maze. If I walk out of that maze and I haven’t seen ‘X’, I know we didn’t do our job. You’re going to see things you’re going to want to see.

What have some of your favorite mazes been over the years?

I’ve come to the realization that per week — even per day — my answer might change. Right now, my favorite mazes in our past are Gothic and Hades, and I really like the last Thing house we did, and the Silver Screams house. The third incarnation of Scary Tales was awesome. That was a fantastic maze. A lot of fun.

How important are the live entertainment shows during Halloween Horror Nights?

Our live shows are incredibly important. We’ve got 34 nights during the fall to be able to scare guests as much as humanly possible, and we have the opportunity to entertain them in distinct ways. We are always going to place a particular amount of interest and attention towards those live shows so that our guests get the best

entertainment for their dollar. We’re always going to push the envelope to try to figure out the best way to engage our guests, and, as fans, we care about making sure we are just as engaged and entertained as our guests who are walking through.

How has technology for Halloween Horror Nights evolved?

Our systems have grown with the times. Now, a single programmer-operator can control the entire house’s audio system while walking through on a technical review, and change levels per-room, per-speaker, per-trigger, on a moment’s notice. That has been such a valuable tool

for us. Not only does it increase the efficiency, but it also gives us the opportunity to adjust to the guests’ reactions. If we’re not getting quite the impact from a particular trigger during the course of the run, we can always change that programming on a moment’s notice and see if that gives us a desired effect. Our tech teams have evolved into a well-oiled machine as far as how they provide all the things that go ‘bump.’

What do you imagine for Halloween Horror Nights’ future?

The houses aren’t self-aware yet, but they’re getting close. Then we’re all in really big trouble!



Let the mayhem begin! This was the kind of Halloween Horror Nights action Brailard was in charge of during his time as performance captain for the many scare zones that make up the outdoor action at Universal’s mega-popular Halloween event.

Top 10 Things To Do In Orlando Outside the Theme Parks

A trip to Orlando doesn't have to be all about the theme parks. No, there's so much more to the area than just Mickey Mouse and Minions. Here's our list of the Top 10 attractions you need to experience outside of the theme parks on your next trip to Central Florida.



10

DRIVE DOWN I-DRIVE INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

We'll start our list by recommending a cruise down Orlando's "World Famous" International Drive. You never know what you'll see on I-Drive. Several attractions on this list can be found here, but this is also where you'll find unique shopping, dining and bizarre attractions. Right now, the strip is overrun with zombies. There are zombie mazes, zombie laser tag, zombie survival stores ... I even think we saw a zombie buffet last trip (don't ask what they serve). Even if you don't stop anywhere, a drive down International Drive is always fun.

9



PLAY AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST ENTERTAINMENT McDONALD'S INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

On the corner of International Drive and Sand Lake Road, you'll find one of the most unique McDonald's you've ever seen. It's home to the world's largest PlayPlace, and we aren't just talking a big ball pit. A multi-level playground is surrounded by a large arcade in a 2,000-square foot area. A recent renovation to the building brought not only new entertainment, but also an open kitchen with a very unique McDonald's menu. You'll find pastas and salads offered next to Big Macs and Happy Meals.



8

SEA LIFE AQUARIUM I-DRIVE 360

Sea Life brings their unique take on aquarium attractions to International Drive. Here, you'll find a very unique presentation of ocean life with their blend of multimedia exhibits and highly themed tanks. One of the main goals of Sea Life, is to bring you as close to the animals as possible. There are multiple tanks you can crawl through, and pop up in the middle of the action. And the main attraction is the "walk-thru" tank, where sharks and other majestic creatures can be found swimming all around you.



7

WONDERWORKS INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

There might not be a more iconic structure outside of the theme parks in Orlando than the upside-down building called WonderWorks. Described on their website as a "theme park for the mind", this bizarre building houses some of the coolest hands-on science exhibits around. Learning has never been so much fun. In recent years, they've added more attractions such as laser tag, a ropes course and a magic dinner show to help keep you entertained all day. With all of the changes coming to Epcot, WonderWorks just might be Orlando's best "edu-tainment" experience out there.



6

CATCH A WRESTLING SHOW FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY

Did you know you can catch the next generation of WWE superstars before they make the big time at Full Sail University? About once a month, the WWE shoots episodes of their WWE Network show "NXT" on the Full Sail campus, showcasing the newest stars in the WWE Universe. While tickets can be very hard to come by, it is a very cool experience if you can time your trip right. At certain times of the year, VIP tours are also offered at the WWE Performance Center, where you can see what it's like to be a NXT Superstar and step in front of the camera and in the ring in a one-of-a-kind experience.





5

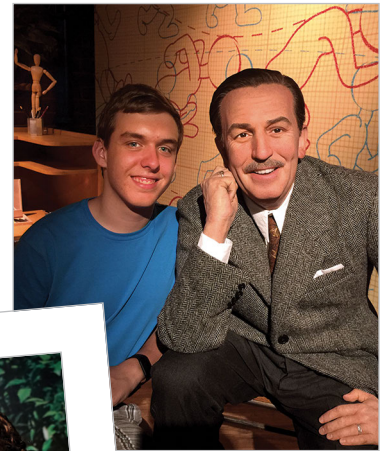
ORLANDO TREE TREK KISSIMMEE, FLA.

Located minutes from Walt Disney World is an adventure park that takes you high into the trees of Orlando's natural habitats. Orlando Tree Trek features six different ropes courses that vary in difficulty, with the easiest courses starting just 10 feet off the ground. But if you are brave enough to test yourself against their most difficult course, you better not be afraid of heights, because you'll be 35 feet in the air with the tops of the trees. The park also includes two 425-foot-long zip lines. There are courses for both children and adults, which means there is plenty of fun for the whole family.

4

MADAME TUSSAUDS I-DRIVE 360

Want to post selfies of yourself with celebrities like Pitbull, Taylor Swift, Vin Diesel or even Walt Disney himself? Then head over to Madame Tussauds and meet as many "celebrities" as you'd like. Unlike some other wax museums, guests at Madame Tussauds are encouraged to get up-close-and-personal with the figures — free of barricades keeping you away. It's actually way more fun than you can possibly describe, especially in the social media world we all live in. So be sure to have plenty of memory on your phone before you go, because you'll be taking a ton of pics.



3

SEE A SHOW AT DR. PHILLIPS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

Located just eight miles from Universal Orlando Resort sits one of the premier performing arts centers in the United States. The Dr. Phillips Center houses multiple unique venues that can showcase anything from Broadway-caliber plays and musicals to stand-up comedy acts and intimate concert performances. There are events going on nearly every night, so be sure to check their schedule online before your next trip.

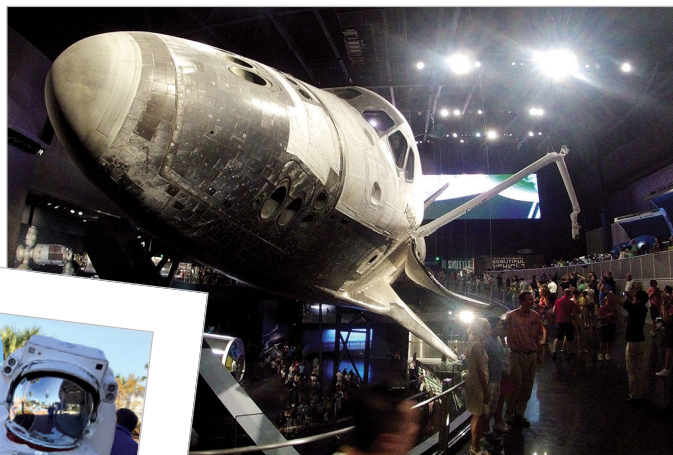


SPACE OUT AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER VISITOR COMPLEX

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.

The Kennedy Space Center is nearly as synonymous with Central Florida attractions as Disney, Universal or SeaWorld. Located on Florida's Space Coast, the Kennedy Space Center hosts "behind the gates" tours of the NASA facility, as well as a number of attractions to give you a hands-on experience and see what it's like to be an astronaut. Rockets still launch from the site and VIP Launch Viewing tickets give you an amazing view as a massive rocket launches into space. The Kennedy Space Center has been a major piece of Florida history for the past 50 years and it's a must-visit attraction.

2



1



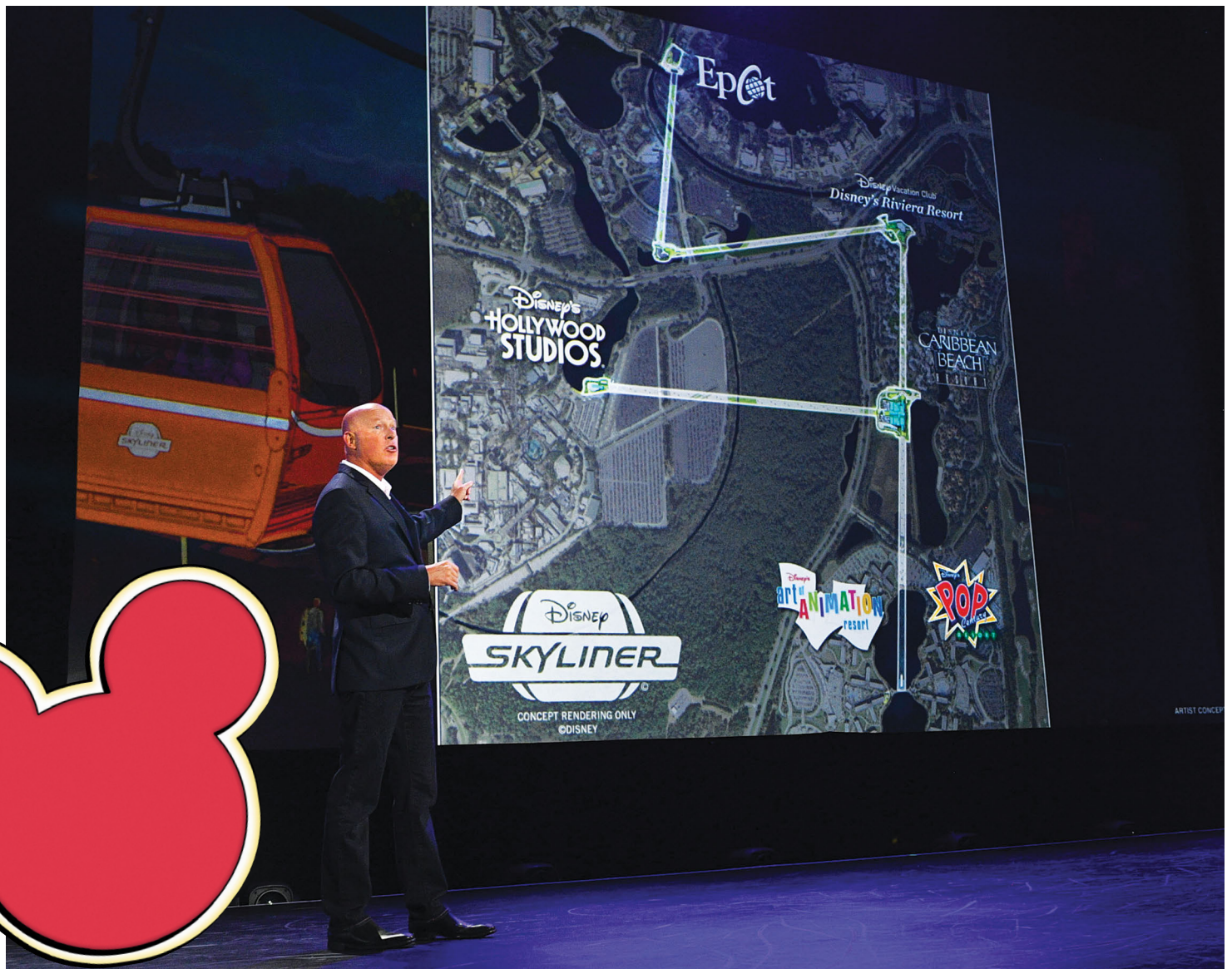
TAKE A RIDE ON THE COCA-COLA ORLANDO EYE I-DRIVE 360

Want to take a look at nearly every attraction listed here, as well as Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and SeaWorld before you visit them? Well, then head over to the Coca-Cola Orlando Eye on I-Drive for a bird's eye view of everything Central Florida has to offer. You'll travel 400 feet in the air on this observation wheel in one of 30 air-conditioned capsules for a 20 minute spin. You get great views of International Drive and the Universal Orlando Resort because of their close proximity. And if you look in the distance, you'll be able to see Spaceship Earth, Expedition Everest and other iconic Disney attractions. For added fees, you can even rent your own private capsule or take a champagne tour. It's only been open a few years, but the Orlando Eye has already become one of the area's most memorable landmarks.

**DO YOU AGREE WITH BEN
OR HAVE A SUGGESTION
FOR A FUTURE TOP TEN?**

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D23 EXPO



Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Bob Chapek shares details on the Skyliner gondola system coming to Walt Disney World, just one of many announcements made at Disney's D23 Expo this summer.

Brings Huge Announcements for Walt Disney World

By Brittani Tuttle

This year's Disney D23 Expo at the Anaheim Convention Center in California was jam-packed with plenty of announcements, exclusive previews and surprise guests, all bringing the latest in Disney news to their biggest fans. From previews of Disney's upcoming animated and live-action films to the Disney Legends induction ceremony and more, fans had plenty of news to sink their teeth into during the Expo.

But nothing was more anticipated, than the Walt Disney Parks and Resorts panel, hosted by Chairman Bob Chapek, where the theme park world was turned on its head with huge announcements for additions coming to the parks over the next four years.

"On the heels of the many new and incredibly popular experiences that just debuted this year, the best is yet to come. We have ambitious plans for our parks and resorts around the world," said Chapek. "We're investing in the guest experience like never before, and we're doing it all in a way that is only possible at Disney!"

Several projects and updates were announced for Disney's Hollywood Studios, Magic Kingdom and Epcot, as well as additions to their resorts and transportation.

Disney's Hollywood Studios

The announcements for Hollywood



The Star Wars hotel will feature fully immersive environments to bring guests into their own Star Wars story.

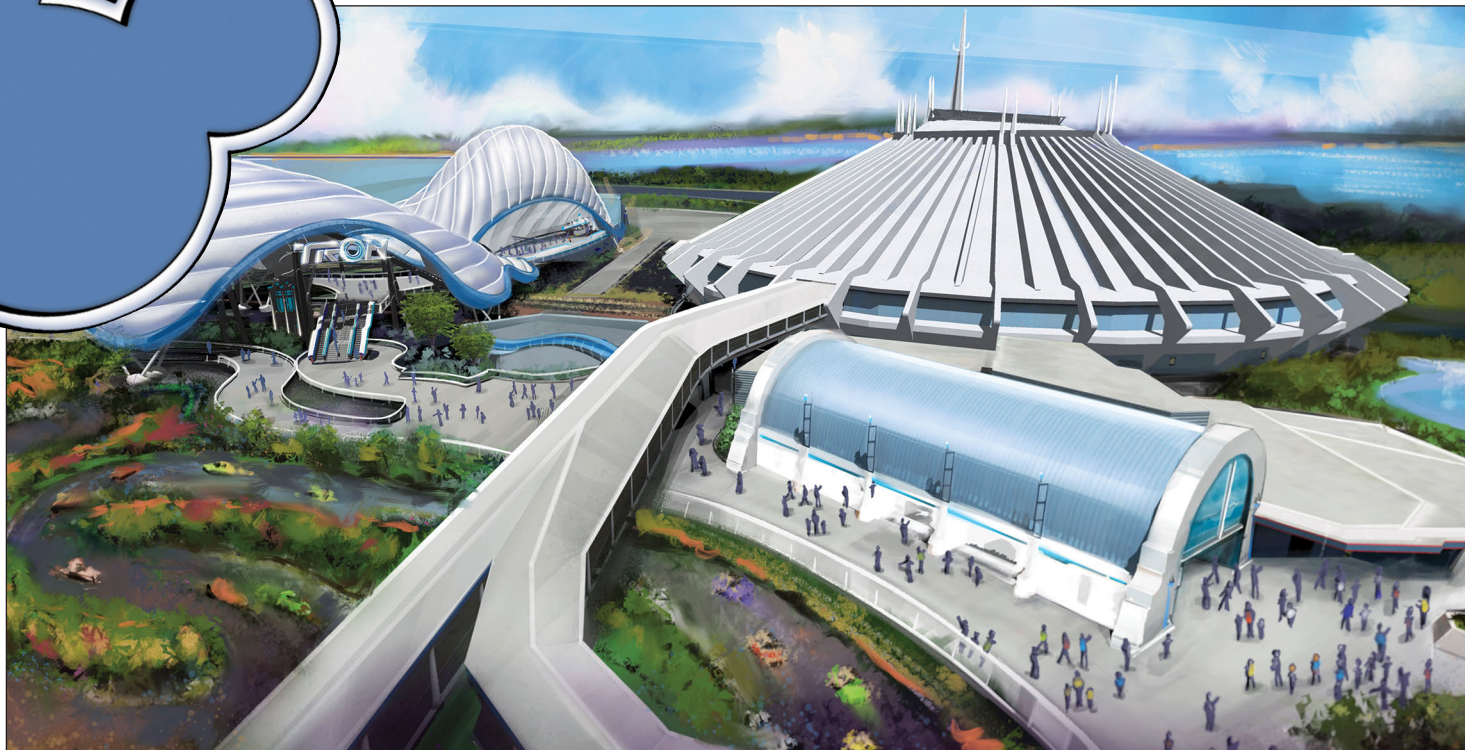
Studios might have been the most anticipated of the panel, with an update on the Star Wars-themed land.

Star Wars land received an official name: Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. Revealed alongside a detailed model of the area (see page 12), this upcoming land will bring a new world, as well as immersive storytelling to Walt Disney World and Disneyland Park, like never before.

"To say we are excited for the Star Wars-themed lands to open in 2019 is an understatement," Chapek said. "All along, we have said this will be game-

changing, and through the model, we can begin to see how truly epic these immersive new worlds will be."

The land will feature two major attractions themed to the Star Wars universe and be set after the events of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". The first attraction will put guests right in the midst of battle between the Resistance and the First Order as they try to escape a hangar bay on a Star Destroyer. The second attraction will have guests in the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon, and their every move will determine their mission's success.



The Tron-themed attraction will be built just to the left of Space Mountain in Magic Kingdom.

Guests will also be able to meet some of their favorite characters, like Chewbacca, BB-8 and Kylo Ren, who all currently

meet in Star Wars Launch Bay.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge will be the biggest themed land expansion ever at 14 acres for each location, and is set to open in 2019. Disneyland Park will debut the land first.

Another change that has come to Disney's Hollywood Studios is the loss of The Great Movie Ride, which closed Aug. 13 (see page 38) to make way for the upcoming attraction, Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway.

"This is one of the boldest [...] most impossible things I've ever worked on in almost 40 years of being an Imagineer," said Kevin Rafferty. "And you know what? That's what I love about it. Well, that, and Mickey. This is not going to be a small attraction; it's going to be game-changing."

In this new attraction, guests will journey into the world of Disney Channel's Emmy Award-winning Mickey Mouse shorts, as they experience the two-dimensional cartoon world as an immersive experience, thanks to new ride technologies. The opening date for this attraction is yet to be announced.

Finally, more details were revealed

about the upcoming Toy Story Land, with new artist renderings, as well as an opening date, next summer. The land will feature two new attractions: the Slinky Dog Dash family roller coaster, as well as Alien Swirling Saucers, which will take guests on a ride as the Toy Story Aliens try to capture their ride vehicle with "The Claw."

Scaled models of both Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge and Toy Story Land are available for guests to view in Disney's Hollywood Studios in a reimagined version of One Man's Dream, which is now called "Walt Disney Presents".

Magic Kingdom

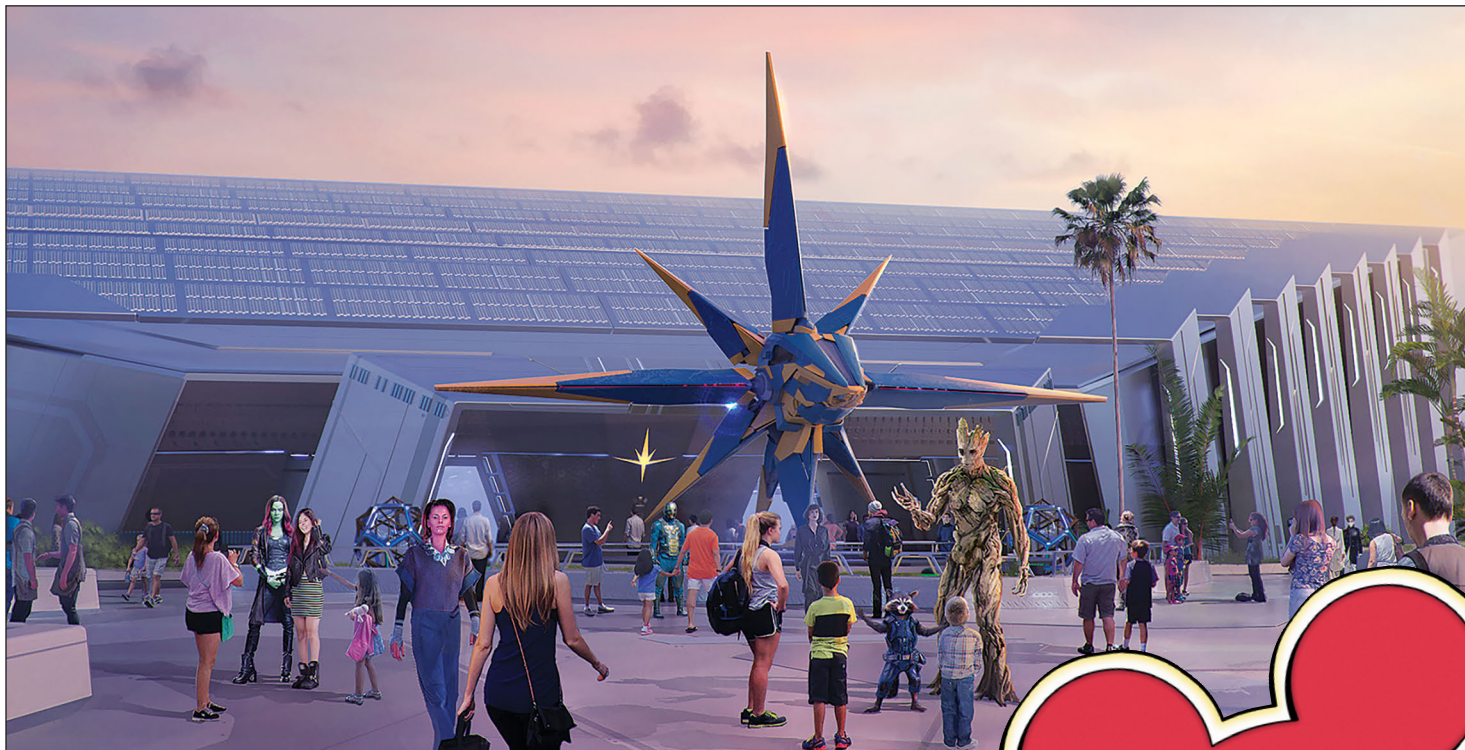
Two new additions are set to arrive at the Magic Kingdom by its 50th anniversary in 2021: the fan-favorite Tron Lightcycle Power Run attraction, originally from Shanghai Disneyland, and an all-new live entertainment theater located just off Main Street, U.S.A.

The thrilling, high-speed Tron roller coaster will be located in Tomorrowland, in a new area by Space Mountain.

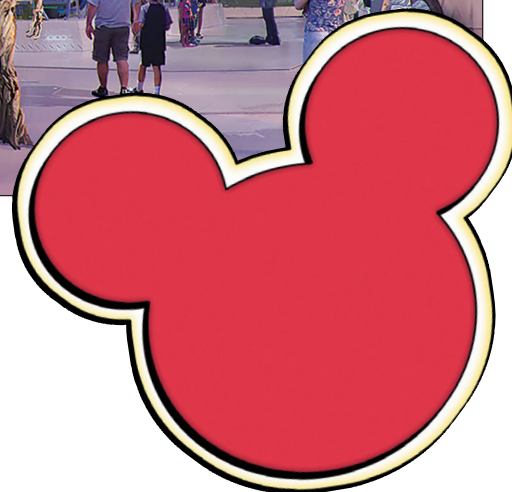
The live entertainment theater coming to Main Street, U.S.A. will be based upon



Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway takes guests straight into a Mickey Mouse cartoon.



The Guardians of the Galaxy attraction will be themed to the idea that Star-Lord visited Epcot as a child.



the Willis Theater in Kansas City, standing as it was in the 1920s. This new venue will bring world-class live entertainment to Magic Kingdom unlike ever before, similar to the Hyperion Theater in Disney California Adventure Park.

Epcot

The Experimental Prototype Com-

munity of Tomorrow is preparing to celebrate its 35th anniversary this fall, and over time, will evolve into a brand new version of itself – while still retaining the original concept and vision of the park, according to Disney. Some of these updates and new additions have already come to fruition, with more on the way.



This “blue sky” Epcot concept art was shown at the expo to represent the possible future of Future World.

Fresh off the heels of a successful ride re-theming at Disney California Adventure, the Guardians of the Galaxy are set to arrive at Epcot with an all-new E-ticket attraction in Future World. The new ride will take the place of Universe of Energy’s Ellen’s Energy Adventure, which closed along with The Great Movie Ride. Details on the out-of-this-world attraction have yet to be fully announced, but the ride is expected to join our galaxy in 2021.

Another new addition to the park will reside in the World Showcase, as a new “Ratatouille” ride based upon the family attraction at Disneyland Paris will take guests on a wild Parisian adventure. Guests will be able to take in all the sights and smells of Ratatouille’s Paris by the 50th anniversary of Walt Disney World Resort in 2021.

The World Showcase will also see changes at the China pavilion, as an updated film will soon replace the current



The Mission: Space restaurant will let guests enjoy a meal in the final frontier.

film, using a next-generation digital camera system to film in seamless Circle-Vision 360°. No date has been set for the update.

Other updates being made to Epcot

have already taken form, starting with Mission: Space. The ride received an update to its Orange Mission with new HD-quality video, as well as an all-new Green Mission that takes guests on a slingshot mission around the Earth. Both new missions are now open for new recruits at Epcot.

Also coming to the Mission: Space area at an unknown date will be a highly-immersive new table-service restaurant that will allow guests to dine among the stars. All of the “windows” in the new restaurant will look out into space.

Resorts

The immersive experiences at Walt Disney World won’t stop at the parks, as two new hotels with their own immersive experiences were announced at D23 Expo: the Disney Riviera Resort, and an immersive Star Wars-themed hotel.

The Disney Riviera Resort, which will be located near Epcot and Hollywood Studios, will be the newest addition to resorts in the Disney Vacation Club lineup. It will also serve as the hub for the newest form of



Guests will team up to help fly the Millennium Falcon when Star Wars: Galaxy’s Edge opens in 2019.

Disney transportation, which you'll read about later in this article.

"Our Vacation Club Members are among our most loyal fans, and we think they'll love what we have planned, especially the rooftop restaurant that will offer unbelievable views of nighttime spectacles at both Epcot and Hollywood Studios," said Chapek.

This resort will be the 15th Disney Vacation Club property at the Walt Disney World Resort, and is slated for a fall 2019 opening.

The other resort in the Parks and Resorts panel lineup is an unprecedented hotel themed to the Star Wars universe, and has yet to receive an official name.

This experimental resort will be dedicated to the theming and concept behind what makes Star Wars so beloved, and take it even further by placing guests within the story. Each guest will have a one-of-a-kind experience on a multi-day adventure while staying in the self-contained hotel. "It's unlike anything that exists today," said Bob Chapek. "From the second you arrive, you will become a part of a Star Wars story. You'll immediately become a citizen of the galaxy and experience all that entails, including dressing up in the proper attire. Once you leave Earth, you will discover a starship alive with characters, stories and adventures that unfold all around you. It is 100% immersive, and the story will touch every single minute of your day, and it will culminate in a unique journey for every person who visits."

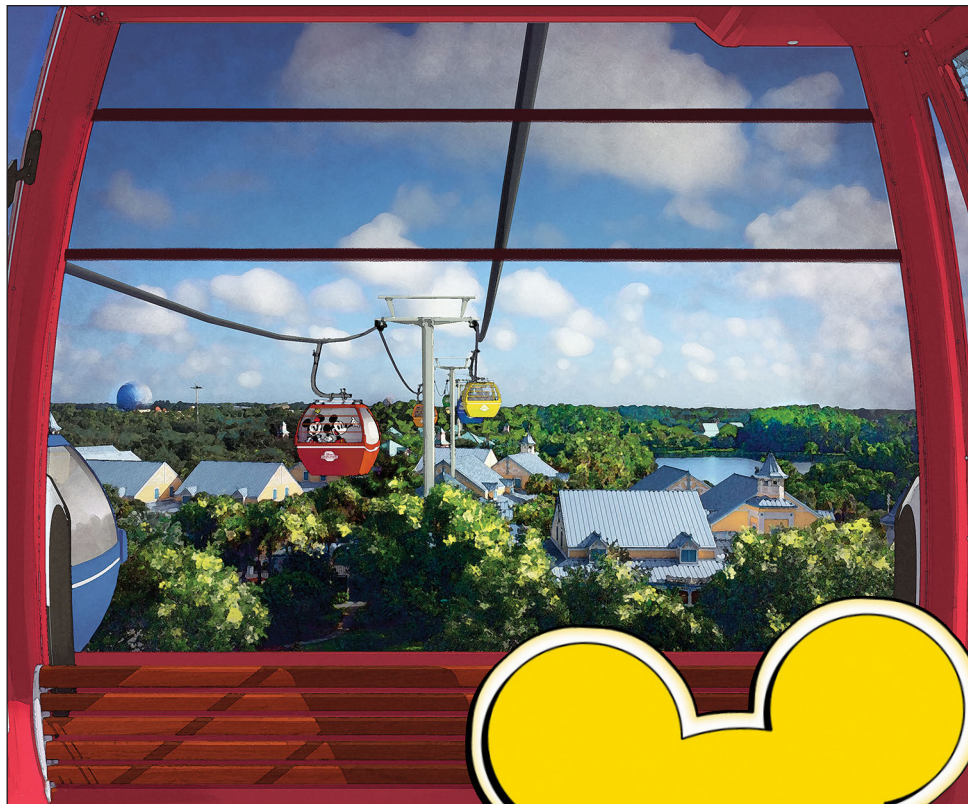
Each guest will be invited to cosplay and immerse themselves in the Star Wars world during their stay, and every aspect of the resort will be themed - even down to the windows gazing out into the vast reaches of space. The opening date, as well as the location, will be announced in the future.

Transportation

New updates are coming to transportation at Walt Disney World as well, and some of these updates have already begun operation.

The Minnie Van service made its debut this summer, and serves as the newest motor vehicle transportation mode for guests.

"Since we're all about exceeding guest



The Skyliner gondolas will be a new scenic form of transportation between parks and resorts.

expectations and making every aspect of your vacation uniquely Disney, we're creating a new point-to-point transportation service in a way that only Disney can do," said Chapek. The polka-dotted SUV's can take guests anywhere on Disney property on demand through the driving service Lyft, and costs a flat fee of \$20 per ride.

Chapek also announced a whole new transportation system with the Disney Skyliner gondolas. This will give guests an eye-in-the-sky as they travel to and from Disney's Pop Century, Art of Animation and Caribbean Beach Resorts, with the hub located at the newly announced Disney Riviera Resort.

The Skyliner will also have stops at the International Gateway in Epcot and at Disney's Hollywood Studios. Each gondola facade will be decorated with various Disney characters and park icons, such as Mickey and Minnie, Donald and Goofy, and even the Hitchhiking Ghosts from The Haunted Mansion.

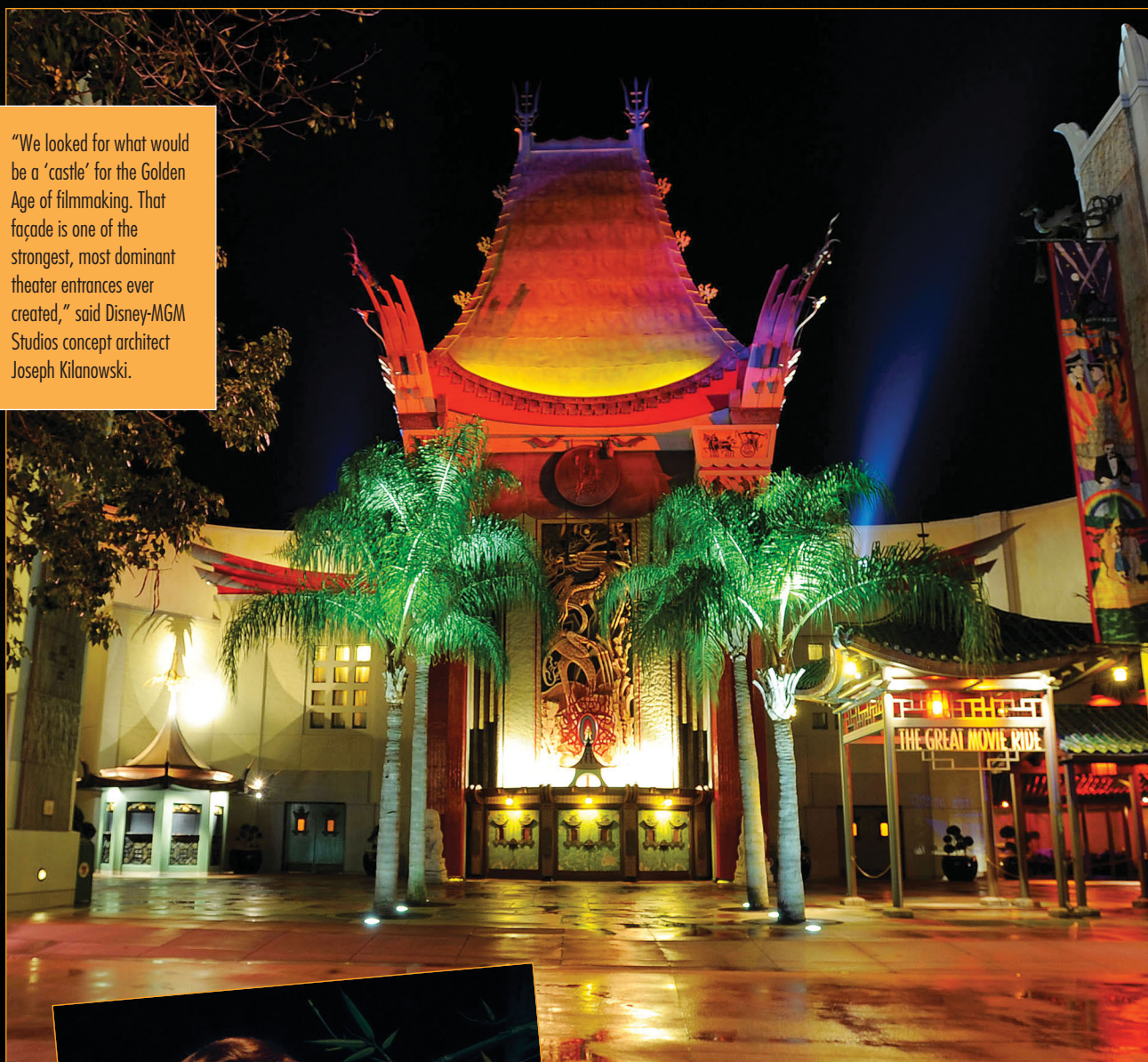
The Future of Walt Disney World

With all of these announcements and changes already in motion for the Orlando parks, fans are clamoring for more details and information on what's to come. The Great Movie Ride and Universe of Energy have closed for their respective refurbishments, and the heat is on for Walt Disney World as it begins to deliver on the "Blue Sky" promises it made during the Parks and Resorts panel.

As the 50th anniversary of the resort is just four years away, it's only a matter of time before we see these updates and new additions come to life at Walt Disney World. All of the announcements made at the Expo paint a beautiful picture of what the future of theme parks could be with the latest innovations and experimental storytelling techniques at work.

Until then, all we can do is wait, and look forward to our great big beautiful tomorrow!

"We looked for what would be a 'castle' for the Golden Age of filmmaking. That façade is one of the strongest, most dominant theater entrances ever created," said Disney-MGM Studios concept architect Joseph Kilanowski.



Actress Maureen O'Sullivan played the role of Jane Parker in six Tarzan movies for MGM from 1932 to 1942 and her Audio-Animatronic was part of The Great Movie Ride. Her jungle outfit was considered quite risqué for the time.



That's A Wrap!

It's a Final Fadeout For The Great Movie Ride

By Jim Korkis

The Great Movie Ride had its final day of operation on Aug. 13 – to be replaced by a new attraction called Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway.

With the closing, guests lost the last original attraction still operating since opening day of Disney-MGM Studios (now Disney's Hollywood Studios). It was the signature attraction for the park, housed in a full-scale, detailed replica of the iconic Grauman's Chinese Theater, one of the most famous movie palaces of the golden age of film.

When the park officially opened on May 1, 1989, former Disney CEO Michael Eisner described it as "The Hollywood that never was - and always will be." The theme park was to be a representation of the Hollywood seen in the movies, on postcards and in fan magazines, not an actual geographical location, but a state of mind. It seemed a natural choice to have the major attraction, located at the end of Hollywood Boulevard, showcase those famous films. In the early '80s, Imagineers proposed an Epcot pavilion that would have included a "Great Movie Moments" attraction, so the ride evolved out of that concept.

One of the challenges facing Disney was that it had not produced classic live-action films in the 1930s and 1940s, that it could use to recreate the era. In 1985, Disney signed a contract with MGM/UA (United Artists) to use up to 250 films from its movie library. In initial discussions, one of the ideas suggested for the attraction was to have live celebrity impersonators inside interacting with the guests. Many different movie genres were

considered and storyboarded for the attraction, including scenes that would have included the "Keystone Kops", "Ghostbusters" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". It ultimately opened very similar to how it closed, but there were some changes a couple of years ago.

In June 2015, the attraction saw minor changes with the new sponsorship of Turner Classic Movies (TCM,) including extensive signage, and having movie historian Robert Osborne not only host a longer pre-show film, but also provide commentary during the ride. In addition, there was a different movie montage in the finale that brought in sequences from more recently made films.

Over the years, at least three separate attempts were made to bring a version of the attraction to Southern California. First, it was earmarked for the planned but never built Disney-MGM Studio Backlot in Burbank. Then it was green-lit several years later for the proposed Hollywoodland addition to Disneyland. Finally, it was seriously considered for the Hollywood Pictures Backlot area of Disney California Adventure, but budget costs doomed its construction.

Here are a few things you may have missed on the attraction:

- The queue contained a constantly rotating exhibit of actual movie props, from

Dorothy's fabled ruby slippers in "The Wizard of Oz", to Sam's piano from "Casablanca", to a carousel horse from "Mary Poppins". One of the more recent additions was one of the arks from "Raiders of the Lost Ark".

- The loading dock was designed to look like a vintage soundstage, with vintage cameras and a cyclorama of Hollywood Hills mansions underneath the Hollywoodland sign. A Hidden Minnie could be located in that scenery. Eagle-eyed guests could



Character actress Margaret Hamilton was severely burned in the filming of the fiery exit scene in the actual movie. Her Audio-Animatronic was one of the most advanced when it debuted.

also find a few Hidden Mickeys throughout the ride.

- The phrase “Ready when you are, C.B.” refers to iconic movie director Cecil B. DeMille. A cutout of his head was attached to one of the rafters above the vehicle that was clearly visible to the ride operator but not the guests.
- The blank guns used by the cast members were housed in a locked safe in a passageway just to the right of the marquee. Cast members were required to go through training with the Orange County Police Department in order to use them.

Here are some more fun facts about the different scenes in the ride. Watch a full video ride-through and walk-through at attractionsmagazine.com.

Singin’ in the Rain

Imagineers intensively wine and dined actor and director Gene Kelly to get him in a good mood before showing him his Audio-Animatronic for approval.

When the ride first debuted, Kelly’s umbrella was open to protect the figure, but the water occasionally splattered off of it and hit the guests, so it was closed.

Gangster Alley: The Underworld

Actor James Cagney’s family was unhappy with his attire in the gangster scene from his classic film “Public Enemy”, so they gave the Imagineers one of Cagney’s actual tuxedos, so he would appear more “classy”, even though he did not wear a tuxedo in the movie scene.

The prop newspapers scattered around the outside of Patrick J. Ryan’s bar



(also from “Public Enemy”) that couldn’t be seen clearly by the guests were actually copies of the “Orlando Sentinel” newspaper. The puddles on the ground were not real liquid and often accumulated dust and needed to be cleaned during maintenance, as did the “horse puddles” in the Western scene.

The gangsters hiding to the left of the tram car were named “Squint and Beans”

and were created from the same molds as two of the buccaneers in the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction.

The gangster car that drove onto the scene had the license plate number 021 429, which is a reference to the infamous Valentine’s Day Massacre on Feb. 14, 1929.

One of the cleverest Hidden Mickeys in the attraction was Mickey’s foot on a recreation of an actual 1930s Mickey Mouse movie poster sticking out beneath the torn “Public Enemy” movie poster on the left-hand wall opposite the Cagney character.

Western Town

John Wayne’s voice was impersonated by actor Doug McClure. When he was alive, Wayne heard McClure impersonating him and apparently approved of him doing it. When the ride originally opened,

Like the Jungle Cruise attraction, The Great Movie Ride provided the opportunity for cast members to interact with guests during the ride and occasionally ad-lib.



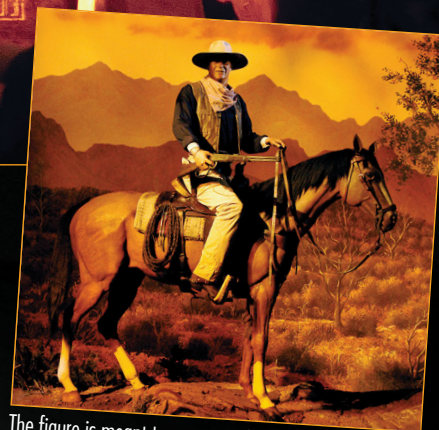
Actor Gene Kelly was sick with a cold and a fever of 103 degrees during the several days it took to film this sequence on the MGM backlot.



In the Well of Souls scene in the Raiders of the Last Ark movie, there is a golden pillar with a tiny engraving of R2-D2 and C-3PO from Star Wars. They could also be found in this scene in The Great Movie Ride.



The Alien creature has become one of the most iconic movie monsters in film history, even though the director chose not to show the full Alien for most of the film.



The figure is meant to suggest John Wayne's character in the 1956 Western movie, "The Searchers". In the film, however, he wore a black hat and bright red shirt.

the figure wore the real belt buckle the actor wore in the movie "Red River". However, as soon as that information became public knowledge, it was stolen and a replica took its place. But the little band the Wayne figure wore on his right wrist was one that Wayne was given for good luck when he visited Vietnam, so the figure does indeed wear something authentic from the actor.

Clint Eastwood's figure did not represent a specific scene from any of his films, but his star-making roles in spaghetti westerns like "Fistful of Dollars". The figure was a next-to-last-minute replacement for actor Lee Marvin, when Marvin's family refused to authorize his Oscar winning portrayal of a gunfighter sitting on a tipsy horse leaning against the building from the comedy "Cat Ballou" as being disrespectful.

The sheriff who popped up on the balcony on the right hand side to shoot at the bank robbers was a reused figure of President Thomas Jefferson from The Hall of Presidents.

Alien

"Alien" is not an MGM film, but made by 20th Century Fox. However, Disney had previously licensed the rights to it for a proposed attraction that later evolved into the ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Encounter at Magic Kingdom.

Those guests who listened carefully could hear Ripley's cat meowing in the distance.

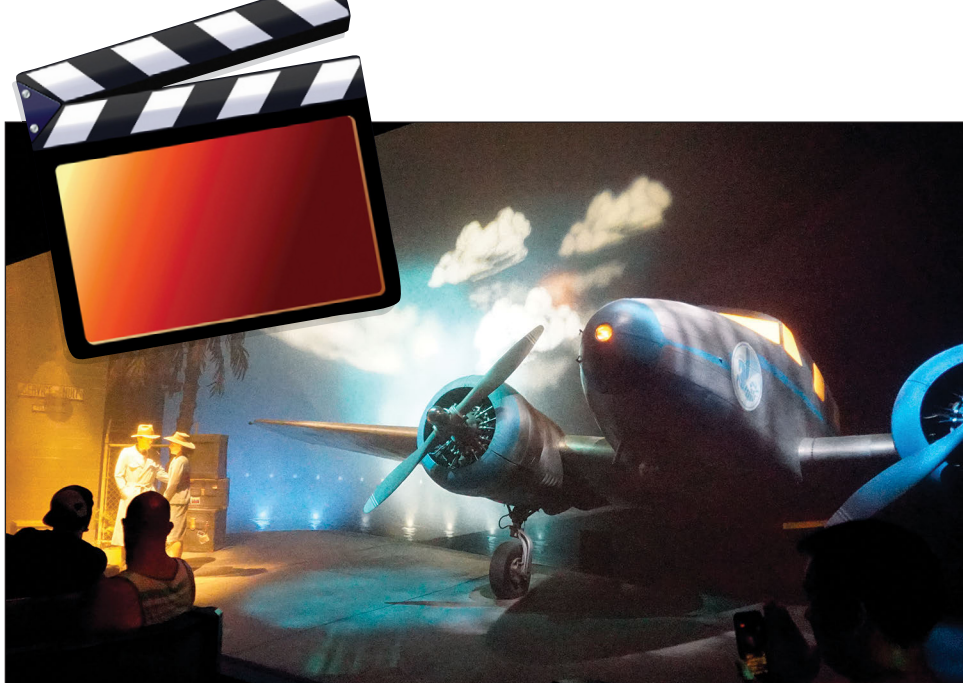
The names on the screen consoles on the lower left floor by the tram are names of the Imagineers who worked on the attraction along with some amusing notations including "Intergalactic Goo Analyst" and "Still Programming the Witch".

Raiders of the Lost Ark

The dramatic scene where Indiana Jones and Sallah lift the Ark of the Covenant diverted guests' attention from the walls on the opposite side. There, hiding in the hieroglyphics were images of C-3PO and R2-D2 (that were also hidden in the film itself), as well as Pharoah Mickey Mouse being served a wedge of Swiss cheese by Egyptian slave Donald Duck.

Tarzan

Actress Maureen O'Sullivan, who



This Lockheed Electra 12A plane was found by Imagineers in Hondo, Texas and its serial number (1204) confirmed that it had been used in Warner Brothers films as well as two Tarzan films.

played Jane in the movie "Tarzan the Ape Man" visited Orlando and got her photo taken with her audio-animatronic double on the elephant. She also placed her handprints in the cement of the building's forecourt.

The figure of Tarzan swinging on a vine was later copied as a pirate swinging on a rope at Disneyland Paris' Pirates of the Caribbean.

Casablanca

Ingrid Bergman didn't speak in this scene because her family wouldn't give permission to use her voice, even though Bergman's grandchildren have been brought through the attraction several times to see their grandmother's animatronic.

There is continuing debate on whether the plane in this scene was actually used in the original film despite Disney's assertion that the serial number is the same. However, there is no debate that the back half of this plane is the one that has crashed in the jungle in Adventureland's Jungle Cruise.

Sorcerer's Apprentice

This section was originally meant to showcase the tornado from The Wizard of Oz, and the screen would have shown swirling objects, including Miss Gulch on

her bicycle transforming into the Wicked Witch on her broom. However, MGM was charging what Disney felt was an excessive licensing fee for each minute of use from the movie, so the scene was transformed to the storm from "The Sorcerer's Apprentice", since a huge fan had already been installed.

The Wizard of Oz

At the time of its opening, the Wicked Witch figure was the most elaborate and realistic audio-animatronic figure ever produced. The figure was later updated with Sarcos technology to make it even more lifelike. It was so sophisticated that it took a week to program 15 seconds of motion.

In order to avoid paying MGM even more, Imagineers had Liza Minnelli, the daughter of Judy Garland, re-record Dorothy Gale's lines.

Finale

The original finale wasn't to be a movie montage but an appearance of the great Wizard of Oz, as the previous scene was the characters approaching the city. Curtains would have opened on either side of the vehicles featuring audio-animatronic versions of characters seen in the attraction taking their bows.



Goodbye Universe of Energy

From its opening in October 1982 until its renovation in September 1996, the Universe of Energy pavilion at Epcot told a fairly serious and educational story about energy and the energy needs of the future.

With its redesign until its closing on Aug. 13, the pavilion shared a more light-hearted story centered around comedian Ellen DeGeneres learning about the subject of energy in a nightmare.

Ellen fell asleep and dreamed about being on the television game show "Jeopardy", where all the questions are about energy. Losing badly, she called upon her next door neighbor, Bill Nye the Science Guy, to give her a crash course on energy to help her win. The exterior of the 105,000-square-foot building itself was specifically designed by Imagineers to take the best advantage of capturing sunlight to power the photovoltaic cells on the roof that generated approximately 70,000 watts of direct current power. The power was fed through an inverter that converted it to alternating current and supplied almost 15 percent of the energy needed to operate the traveling theater vehicles. The unique ride vehicles were later adapted for The Great Movie Ride and The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror.

Each vehicle was driven by a single six horsepower electric motor powered by eight 12-volt lead-acid automotive batteries. These batteries recharged during the show while the theater cars were in their stationary formation on the huge turntables.

The cars were guided by a wire, one eighth of an inch thick, that was imbedded in the concrete floor and emitted a low-level radio frequency. The vehicle was in

constant communication with a computer that issued the speed, start, stop and turn commands for the vehicle through the wire.

The highlight for most guests during the 45 minute experience was the seven minute journey through a highly detailed dinosaur diorama.

The 36 dinosaurs were the largest audio-animatronic animals ever to be fabricated by Imagineering. They were so huge that they had to be placed in the pavilion building first and then the roof installed overhead. The forest was landscaped with 250 prehistoric trees that rose up to 40 feet overhead.

For the 1996 rehab, the dinosaurs, in keeping with the latest research that the creatures were less reptilian and more birdlike, were given new skins and repainted the brighter colors with more stripes and other markings. A water misting effect of the overhanging Brontosaurus sneezing was added, since a similar gag with an oversized dog proved so popular in the Honey, I Shrank the Audience attraction at Epcot. The flora was rehabbed as well, with new foliage added throughout to make it look greener, lusher and less rocky. The smellitizers producing a damp Earth smell were deactivated during the renovation.

The Elasmosaurus and the Ellen audio-animatronics figure (supposedly a re-used figure from the World of Motion pavilion, which is why it did not look much like the performer), along with the accompanying audio track, were removed sometime around 2014 and never replaced.

Ellen's Energy Adventure closed to make way for a new Guardians of the Galaxy attraction.

GEEKING OUT OVER ORLANDO'S NERD BARS

By Andy Haynes



Don't worry, these specialty drinks at Joysticks Orlando only look scary. They're actually quite delicious. This Donkey Kong relief literally pops out from the wall, and makes a handy place to store alcohol.





Vault 5421

Gods and Monsters has had more than their fair share of difficulty finding and maintaining a location for their comic and game store. Having to quickly move out of the Artegon Marketplace when it suddenly ceased operations felt like the end was near for the store before they settled on their current location. So it's perhaps with a wink and nod to their near demise that they opened Vault 5421, a post-apocalyptic themed bar. Styled after the popular genre, Vault 5421 is an immersive location designed by creative talent who've previously worked on local theme parks. The bar isn't just highly themed, it also contains many Easter eggs from various post-apocalyptic sources. "We've got references to everything in there," said Todd Fisher co-owner of Gods and Monsters, "everything we could think of." Keen-eyed guests to Vault 5421 can spot references to "Fallout", "Mad Max", "Rick and Morty", "Aliens" and more. The atmosphere and details in the bar, from the coolers holding the drinks down to the bar stools, have been meticulously detailed and designed to provide the most immersive experience possible. Even the bartenders are in costume (and, if you come on certain nights, so is the cage dancer)! If you're looking for a drink at the end-of-the-world, then Vault 5421 is the place to be.

As the theme song for the old "Cheers" TV show says, "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name." But what if you want to go where everybody also knows the name of your Dungeons and Dragons' character? Orlando has always been a city built on hospitality, and it is definitely no stranger to themed bars. From Trader Sam's Grog Grotto at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort to Frosty's Christmastime Lounge in Downtown Orlando, there are bars to fit just about every theme and style. But, with the rise of "geek culture" in recent years, Orlando has recently started seeing more and more bars of the, shall we say, more "nerdy" persuasion. In actuality, "geek culture" really represents a very wide variety of interests. Whether you're looking to play some classic arcade games, argue about comic books, try out the latest table-top gaming, or just lounge in a heavily themed environment (all while having a pint of your favorite craft beer), Orlando has you covered. Here's a look at a few local venues that can quench your thirst while providing that nerdy outlet you crave.

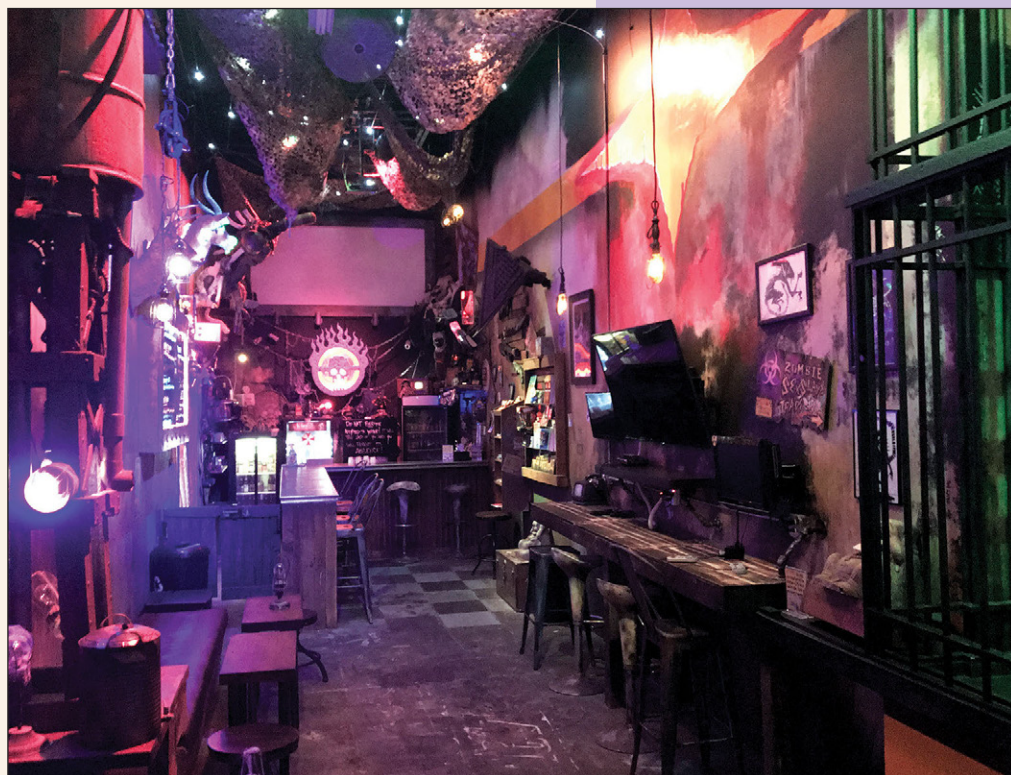
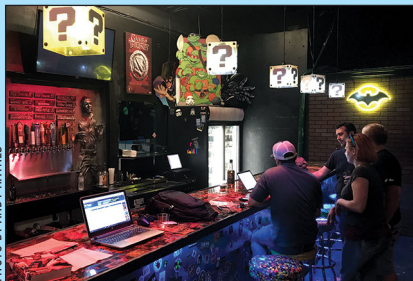


PHOTO BY ANDY HAYNES

Every inch of Vault 5421 is painted and covered in decorations. It's like being in the middle of the apocalypse!

PHOTO BY ANDY HAYNES



The Geek Easy

In the back of A Comic Shop (yes, that's actually its name), through a secret back door (don't worry, it's not too hard to find) lies The Geek Easy, where it's easy to be a geek. "We wanted to be basically a sports bar without the sports," said Owner Aaron Haaland. "We were doing events with comic book writers and artists and we decided that we wanted to do something where we could sell beer and have events nightly." At The Geek Easy, events range from viewing parties of television premieres shown on their large projection screens, to bingo, karaoke and everything in between. As a smaller venue, The Geek Easy is able to host more exclusive events which can take advantage of the intimate setting and better fuse the bar style trivia and karaoke nights with geek culture. That's not to say the venue can't also rock out! The bar prominently features a stage where "nerdcore" bands will often play. When they do, the tables are pushed back, the disco ball is lowered, and The Geek Easy becomes a rocking dance club. The Geek Easy prides itself on being as inclusive as possible, making the bar a comfortable place for everyone. "We've made rules like no heckling at the karaoke," continued Haaland. "We very much made 'no harassment' policies which we strictly enforce."

Player One

Over in Lake Buena Vista, just around the corner from Disney Springs, is the popular arcade bar Player One. Founded in 2013, Player One allows gamers, for a nominal cover charge, unlimited access to more than 32 classic arcade machines and nearly every home console that has ever been created. With the recent closure of DisneyQuest (some of whose games found their way to Player One), more and more tourists and locals have made their way to Player One to scratch that classic gaming itch. Players are afforded the opportunity to order drinks from the large assortment of craft beer, ciders and meads, while playing video games on the large screens right around the bar. "The owners really wanted to preserve the nostalgia of arcades, but also give it that twist of having beers," said Social Media Manager Matt Molandes. "For people who grew up in the arcade age, they are now also old enough to drink. So why not merge the two?" The focus on beers over hard liquor allows Player One to maintain a more communal and happy feel rather than letting aggressive natures get out of control. Not only does this help protect the vintage machines, but also allows the bar to cultivate a welcoming atmosphere and serve as a safe space for all types of people. "That is a very important aspect of Player One," said Matt, "that anyone who walks in here can feel safe, especially in this day and age, whether you're a newcomer or already a member of the family."



PHOTO BY ANDY HAYNES



The "top secret" entrance to The Geek Easy. No password required!

Joysticks

Take a building built in 1901 in Downtown Orlando, add theme park quality retro '80s inspired décor, a dash of vintage arcade games, a healthy dose of premium themed cocktails, shake thoroughly and what you end up with is Joysticks Orlando. "All the things you loved from when you were a kid," said Co-Owner Addie Hassel, "we made it even better and then we added alcohol." Inside Joysticks, patrons can find homages to many different retro properties including Star Wars, Jaws, The Haunted Mansion and more. Some touches are as simple as a sign that reads "No Stairway to Heaven" (from the movie Wayne's World) to as elaborate as an entire corner of the bar dubbed the "Never Say Die Lounge" (from the '80s adventure classic "The Goonies"). With a full liquor license, Joysticks even features elaborately themed drinks with names like the "Weird Science" and the "Foolish Mortals." Joysticks sees a wide range of patrons come through its doors, from young professionals looking to relax in nostalgic surroundings to older folks looking to listen to the music and play the games of their childhood. "We wanted to make sure you could come in for the arcade games," continued Addie, "but you could also come in for everything else!"



The Cloak and Blaster

Where do adventurers go to rest and make merry after a long day of dragon slaying? Why the local tavern of course. And The Cloak and Blaster wants to be just that, with a healthy mix of pop culture and nerdy fandoms, of course. "We ourselves are two geeks who are passionate about certain things in pop culture fandoms, geekery, etc.," said Andrea C. Zimmerman, co-owner and chief creative unicorn (yes, that's her real title). "We really wanted to open a business together that reflected the things we were most passionate about." That business became The Cloak and Blaster, a two story bar and gaming venue that is a medieval tavern downstairs and a starship base upstairs. Patrons who are ordering one of the many craft beers and drinks or partaking in the delicious kitchen (Definitely try the Lannister Burger with its pretzel bread bun and peanut butter sauce.) are allowed to check out any of the bar's more than 300 different board games to play while they relax. Leaving the tavern downstairs, guests will find a more subdued starship lounge upstairs. There, guests can play on several of the video game consoles or just enjoy a quieter space. The Cloak and Blaster also features several themed nights throughout the year celebrating many different fandoms including Harry Potter, Firefly, Doctor Who, Pirates and more. "We love [doing these themed events]," explained Andrea. "It's a chance for all of us to exercise our creativity without having to completely change our concept over and over again."



NAME	WEBSITE	ADDRESS	COVER CHARGE	AGE RESTRICTION
Vault 5421	godmonsters.com/ vault-5421	5421 International Drive, Orlando	No	21+
The Geek Easy	mygeekeasy.com	114 S. Semoran Blvd. Suite 6, Winter Park	No	21+ on weekends
Player One	player1orlando.com	8562 Palm Pkwy, Orlando	\$5	21+ after 6pm.
The Cloak and Blaster	cloakandblaster.com	875 Woodbury Rd, Ste 108, Orlando	No, must order food/ drinks to play games	No
Joysticks Orlando	joysticksorlando.com	69 East Pine, 2nd Floor, Orlando	No, must order drinks to play games	21+



The six-story-tall Wilderness Lodge lobby features elements inspired by Native Americans and the Grand Canyon.

By Tharin White

Disney's Wilderness Lodge Lets You Get Away From it All Just Minutes From Magic Kingdom

Have you ever wanted to escape the hustle and bustle of Orlando, but still be just minutes away from the action? Disney's Wilderness Lodge and the new Disney Vacation Club (DVC) Copper Creek addition can offer just that. This classic Disney resort is just a short boat ride from the Magic Kingdom and offers Disney bus transportation to everywhere else on property. As part of the Disney Deluxe Resorts, this lodge and DVC addition offers a step into the Pacific Northwest while being in the heart of Walt Disney World.

You'll start off in the large lobby. This area pays homage to the Grand Canyon, Native Americans and numerous national parks. The stone fireplace is a recreation of the Grand Canyon, showcasing the many layers of time that occurred throughout the history of its making. Plenty of seating allows everyone to relax by the fire, or during the holidays, circled around the massive indoor Christmas tree. There is also the spring that forms inside the lobby and flows throughout the exterior of the resort down into the main pool.

The theme of the resort continues everywhere you go, from the Copper Creek waterfall down to the erupting geyser. From the waterfalls down into the Copper Creek Springs pool, guests of all ages can enjoy the numerous water-based amenities. The kids can play in the kiddie pool, complete with activity area and slides. The springs pool offers great wading areas, a 67 foot slide and a perfect

view of the Fire Rock Geyser when it erupts.

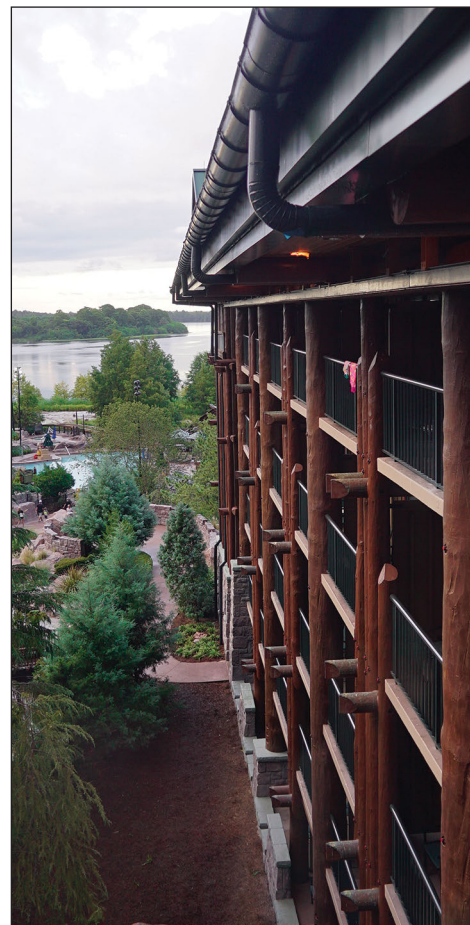
The second pool, Boulder Ridge Cove, was recently renovated and offers zero-depth entry and a hot tub. If you arrive early enough, you can also snatch a shaded seating area complete with chairs and a couch. The pool has a throwback to a past Disney attraction. Many of the boulders, along with the crane over the pool, were taken directly from the Backlot Tour at Disney's Hollywood Studios in the Catastrophe Canyon scene.

Right nearby is the Geyser Point Bar & Grill, with stunning views of natural Florida. This lounge and bar area offers everything from breakfast to signature cocktails and rustic fare. This quick service location offers meals under \$15 and drinks that range from the organic root beer at \$2.79 to Huckleberry punch at \$12. During the lunch and dinner hours, you can order fried oysters, cheesy barbecue brisket and salmon rillettes.

If you're looking for a heartier meal, look no further than the Whispering Canyon Café. It offers plenty of options. Their signature item for every meal is the all-you-care-to-enjoy skillet. These skillets offer a slew of different food items from separate entrees on the menu. The breakfast skillet has Mickey waffles, biscuits, gravy, home fries, bacon and scrambled eggs. While the lunch and dinner skillet has ribs, pulled pork, chicken, mashed potatoes, baked beans, corn on the cob and much more. Whispering Canyon is also known for its funny gags and playful

cast members. Everyone at your table must scream for ketchup if they want the condiment, and all the other patrons at the restaurant will bring some. This results in a lot of laughs and way too much ketchup, but it's all part of the fun.

Fine dining is also an option for those



Rustic charm and serene nature views surround the entire resort.



The Cascade Cabins offer a full kitchen, dining room and living room, complete with fireplace and plenty of natural lighting.

seeking a fancier meal with some Disney flair. Artist Point is a signature restaurant featuring butcher cut steaks and featured wines. Those not looking for steak can try the cedar plank salmon, seared scallops or roast chicken. You may also partake in the Taste of the Pacific five-course meal. This meal features cuisine directly inspired from the Pacific Northwest and ends with two separate desserts. The Lodge also offers a separate bar area at the Territory Lounge and a quick service restaurant at the Roaring Fork. Guests may also cook their own dinner at the numerous BBQ pavilions throughout the resort.

Aside from the food and pools, Wilderness Lodge offers plenty of other activities everyone in the family can enjoy. Sturdy Branches is the health club at the resort, which offers 24 hour access. Those wishing to get out of the gym can rent a bike, walk or run their way down the tree-lined paths around the resort. Campfires are another great way to get the family together for some fun, and outdoor movie screenings are usually offered around the same time for viewing under the stars.

Out from the land and into the water,



The Copper Creek Springs pool is the resort's largest swimming area and features hot tubs, a kids play area and a 67-foot-long slide.

Wilderness Lodge offers plenty for those seeking to sail onwards. Fishing excursions are offered pontoon-style pontoon style for groups up to five; you may also partake in one to two person Bass Nitro fishing excursions. Motorized boats are also available for rent that allow free roaming on the waters of Seven Seas Lagoon and Bay Lake.

While amenities are a great perk, the lodging aspect is truly the most important part of the Wilderness Lodge. The central lodge rooms offer easy access to the buses, and close proximity to the pool and restaurants. Guests who stay in the main lodge can expect views over the hot springs, into the wilderness of wild Florida, or towards the entrance of the lodge. Outside of the main lodge are three other areas for guests to stay, the Boulder Ridge Villas, the Copper Creek Villas and the Cascade Cabins.

Boulder Ridge was the first expansion of Wilderness Lodge back in 2000. The rooms range from deluxe studios to two bedroom villas. Boulder Ridge may be a separate building from the main lodge, but the theming and the feel of rustic comfort and charm continue throughout. The main area features a fireplace and seating for a relaxing break by the crackling fire. Besides the main rotunda and outdoor areas, there is also a special room called the Carolwood Pacific. On special days, it may be possible to have a cast

member tour you around and teach you the history that lies before you. The villas offer two, three, and four bedroom possibilities with views of the woodlands, pool and courtyard.

The new Copper Creek area offers high-end villas and studios. Hidden details throughout the new rooms can be found in the Sven silhouettes, hidden Mickeys in the wood grain and Carolwood Pacific tickets. The Grand Villas offer their own living room, three bedrooms, a full kitchen and private balconies.

The final offerings are the Cascade Cabins. These new additions offer private getaways while still being close to the resort's amenities. Each of the 26 cabins can sleep up to eight and offer plenty of areas to relax and enjoy the nature of Central Florida. Every cabin has an indoor and outdoor fireplace, along with a private hot tub overlooking Bay Lake.

Throughout the past few years, Wilderness Lodge has received numerous upgrades, which now allows it to have many different amenities and types of vacation offerings. This Disney Deluxe Resort truly provides peace and comfort from the hustle of the parks and attractions in the area. Meanwhile, it's just a seven-minute boat ride from the Magic Kingdom. If you are looking to escape into the wilderness, all while being minutes from the Disney Parks, Wilderness Lodge is a great resort.



The Fire Rock Geyser erupts more than 120 feet in the air. You can expect eruptions to occur every hour, on the hour, from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.



The private hot tubs on the back porch of the Cascade Cabins offer a relaxing retreat with sweeping views of natural Florida.



Nature inspired all aspects of the new villas, from the opaque wood grain glass, to the large rustic headboards.

WILDERNESS LODGE

- Location:** 901 Timberline Dr
Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
- Prices:** Standard Room \$307
to \$544 per night
- Parking:** Free self-parking,
Valet is \$25 per day
- Phone:** 407-824-3200
- Website:** DisneyWorld.com



Paddlefish sports a dramatic new look, thanks to a recent redesign, including a sleek, contemporary style and a dramatic lighting package that makes it look especially eye-catching at night.



Another new big difference is the addition of a new lounge area atop the riverboat, that provides a great vantage point over much of Disney Springs.

By Susan and Simon Veness

This (Paddle)Fish Is A Disney Original

There isn't much of Disney Springs – the former Downtown Disney – recognizable from its original design, but one element from the 1970s is still there, and it has just undergone its second transformation to remain fresh and relevant.

The classic boat docked on the shore of Lake Buena Vista opened in May 1977 as the Empress Lilly, a magnificent 220-foot recreation of a 19th century paddle-wheeler. Named for Walt Disney's wife Lillian, it served as the iconic center of what was then Lake Buena Vista Village, and was "the" place to dine for 18 years, before – much like Dr. Who – it went through its first "regeneration."

Still essentially the same idea, the former Empress became Fulton's Crab House, minus its smart paddlewheel and twin funnels, but with the funky

Stone Crab Lounge and chic Constellation Room. The intricate exterior decks remained but, shorn of its most obvious features, the Crab House didn't look quite as inviting as the first incarnation.

Looking to give their venue new life, owner Levy Restaurants opted for a second regeneration in 2016 and it reopened earlier this year as Paddlefish. Back came the paddle-wheel and funnels, along with a sleek, contemporary look and, more important, a rooftop lounge and bar providing a grandstand view over Disney Springs.

The interior was completely remodeled, with huge windows added to the lower deck dining area, while the former front bar was extensively modified to include a specialty seafood boil sec-



Executive Chef Steven Richard is a long-time Disney Springs stalwart with plenty of upscale experience.



The former Stone Crab Lounge is now home to the specialty seafood boil section and bar.

tion that adds a delicious new element to the menu.

With all these changes, the restaurant is fortunate to have a Levy stalwart at the helm to ensure the new-look restaurant lives up to some high expectations. Chef Steven Richard was previously at Wolfgang Puck's in the West Side of Disney Springs, then executive chef at the Italian-themed Portobello before arriving at Paddlefish.

He was in charge of the rebuild of the kitchens in the new restaurant, as well as reworking the menu so it appealed to fans old and new. In fact, it had to do more than that, as Chef Richard told us; "Fulton's had a lot of emotional roots for a lot of people and we were very aware we needed to bring it to the next level."



The interior decor is notably brighter and more modern, with the individual dining rooms — like the Constellation Room — more in keeping with the restaurant's sophisticated vibe.

“Our goal was to make it a premier seafood destination for all of Florida, but we didn’t want to go so far afield that someone who enjoyed Fulton’s would not be comfortable, so we kept some things from Fulton’s menu, like the crab

offerings. We still have the lobster corn dogs that were a terrific fun item that people loved, the great Crab Cake with a maque choux, and the fried green tomato appetizer. We kept enough elements to try to ensure we didn’t offend Fulton’s

fans, but we changed enough that it’s genuinely different and new.”

While the offerings remain heavily seafood oriented, Chef Richard also wanted to ensure they could appeal to all Disney Springs guests. “When we put the menu together, we tried to create enough variety so that, no matter who you are, you can come in and enjoy a great meal, even if you have a shellfish allergy,” he insisted.

“I was speaking to a table the other night, and one of them wasn’t a great seafood fan, but I was able to recommend the pork shank. I often like braised items because if you don’t love that pork shank, it’s not going to love you back, so that kind of craft cooking is very attractive to me.”

And to us, as it turned out. We chose the Osso Bucco as one of our main courses, alongside the Scallops, and we were not disappointed. The pork came up beautifully succulent, with a surprisingly light and delicate smokiness that was the perfect foil to the generous bed of cheddar grits it sat on. Superbly moist and outrageously tender (all that braising, you see!), it just edged out the scallops — with their melt-in-the-mouth quality and totally delectable crispy Brussels sprouts — as our dish of the day.



One of the must-try appetizers is a former Fulton’s Crab House favorite, the Lobster Corn Dogs, which come up deliciously soft and succulent, with a real boost of flavor from the sweet chili aioli.



Be brave and opt for the delectable Charred Octopus, which is one of Chef Richard's specialties. It's served on a soft bed of cannellini beans and chourico, and given a superbly delicate finish from the smoked paprika oil that imbues the whole dish with a deep, mellow flavor.

They had some serious competition, though. Choosing an entrée turned out to be one of the toughest decisions we've had to make in a long time. The signature seafood boils are all tantalizing. "We have two 60-gallon kettles that we fire up every morning," explained Chef Richard. "We start with a mixture of bay leaf, lemon, sea salt, Old Bay seasoning, garlic and onion, and it goes all day long, like a liquid version of the wood-burning oven we had at Portobello."

"If I'm poaching lobster, as we do at lunch for the lobster roll, or for the lobster guacamole, or poaching shrimp for the shrimp cocktail and the seafood tower, it all comes from the boil. And then it can also produce everything from Maine Lobster and King and Queen Crab to shrimp, mussels and clams. Then we add potatoes and corn from the Plant City farmers market here in Florida and it's all in that concentrated mixture for a unique flavor."

The appetizer selection is equally mouthwatering, starting with their lobster guacamole, prepared table-side and given the freshest of twists with the addition of that poached lobster, providing a positive 'Olé!' on your tastebuds. The Charred Octopus is also an inspired

choice, deliciously smoky and crisp, with a tangy finish from the accompanying chourico and smoked paprika oil.

But you might just have to opt for the before Lobster Corn Dogs Chef Richard mentioned. Five skewers of perfectly cooked lobster tail in a light cornflour batter, served with a sweet chili aioli, its heavenly buttery finish definitely melts on the palate.

You should save room for dessert, too, as Paddlefish serves a cracking Key Lime Pie as well as a Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Tart with a strip of candied bacon that is as photogenic as it is tasty.

Finally, do try their signature cocktails for another "taste the difference" challenge. The fabulously rich Southern Sangria features Medley Bros. bourbon instead of the traditional brandy, while the Garden Gimlet is given a gorgeous boost with the addition of crème de violette.

Craft beers and an extensive wine list complete a suitably opulent accompaniment to your meal, and you can also add to the occasion by waving to the steady stream of Amphicars that pass by the restaurant windows, each one with its cargo of excited passengers. But, with the Paddlefish fare in front of you, there can be no doubt who has the best deal!



The Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Tart includes a slice of candied bacon.



Another delicious — and different — appetizer is the Crab & Asparagus Benedict.

PADDLEFISH

Location:	The Landing, Disney Springs
Price Range	
Appetizers:	\$9 to \$17
Entrees:	\$17 to \$49 (sides extra)
Desserts:	\$9 to \$10
Phone:	407-934-2628
Online:	disneyworld.com and paddlefishrestaurant.com
Hours:	11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday to Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday

Paddlefish accepts the Disney Dining Plan
(2 entitlements required).

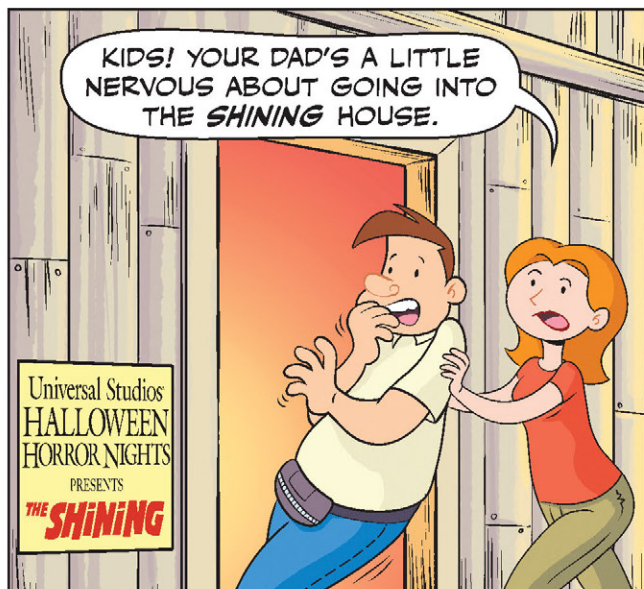
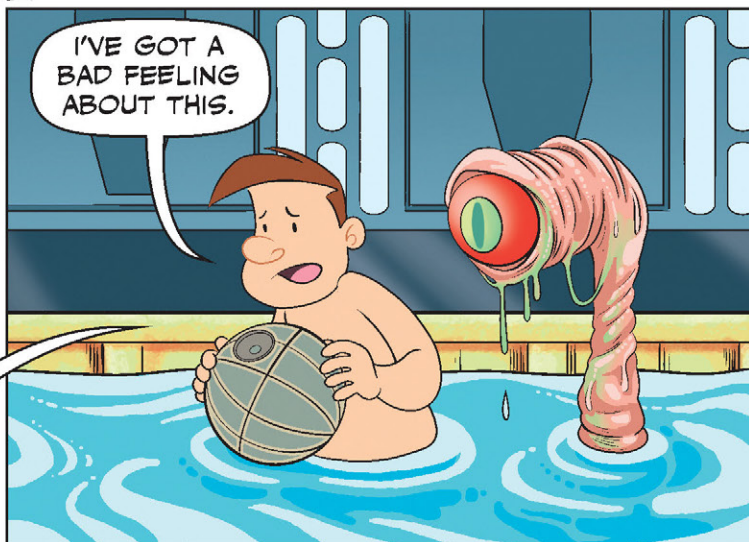
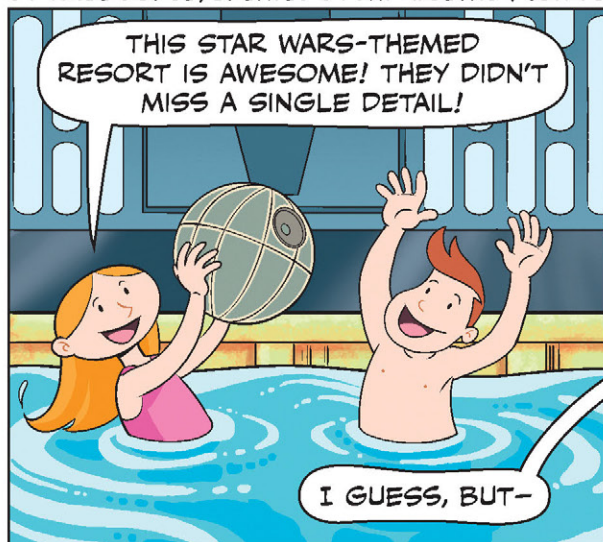


AMUSEMENT PARK

By Vince Dorse, Created by Pat N. Lewis & John Green



BY VINCE DORSE, CREATED BY PAT N. LEWIS & JOHN GREEN





SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 10 differences in these two photos?

In Memory of Christopher Titchenal 1977-2017

You may not recognize the name Christopher Titchenal, as most people don't read the staff box on page 8. But if you've enjoyed the Spot the Difference page in the past four years, you've enjoyed Christopher's work. He always worked his magic, adding and removing parts of each photo for you to spot, not for the money, but because he loved bringing you a bit of theme park fun. Christopher started working on Attractions Magazine with the Spring 2012 edition and he began exclusively creating Spot the Difference with the Fall 2013 issue. We're sad to report that after a nine-month battle following heart surgery, Christopher passed away on Aug. 10. He stayed strong to the end. We will all miss Christopher and trying to solve his

puzzles. What better tribute than to make his family's photo into one of the puzzles, created by his friend Sharon Liguori. Pictured is Christopher with his wife, Alida, and Mickey Mouse at the Magic Kingdom on Oct. 1, 2011 - Walt Disney World's 40th anniversary and Chris' 34th birthday. You can spot their daughter Anna in the after photo.

If you'd like to help Christopher's family with his medical bills and more, donations may be made via PayPal to alida.titchenal@gmail.com, via YouCaring at youcaring.com/alidatitchenal-901441 or via GoFundMe at gofundme.com/chris-hospital-campaign

BEFORE



AFTER



1. Christopher is wearing an extra pin.
2. Mickey has three white buttons on his slacks instead of only two.
3. Mickey's right pupil is larger.
4. Christopher and Alida's daughter Anna is looking over Christopher's shoulder.
5. Alida's Mickey Mouse Ears are missing the center Mickey Mouse logo.
6. The red curtains have an extra gold swirl above Mickey's head.
7. Mickey's left eyebrow is larger.
8. Christopher is now wearing a watch.
9. Mickey's bow tie has changed from yellow to blue.
10. Mickey's hand on Alida's shoulder now only shows three fingers instead of four.



THE RUMOR QUEUE

By Fowl Owlerson

Fall is here, which means a great deal of rain for Floridians and weather that's not as sweltering, but let's face it, it's still hot. So put your umbrellas up, grab a towel and dry off, and let's see what's been rumored in the theme park industry.



Universal

The Secret Life of Pets project was delayed, but is rumored to be making its way to both coasts. A How To Train Your Dragon attraction is also rumored to be in the works for both coasts.

In Orlando, the replacement for Dragon Challenge is said to be a Forbidden Forest experience that won't be as intense as Dragon Challenge and will employ animatronics and new ride vehicle patents. The Fear Factor Live stadium may be removed for what is rumored to be a Wizarding World Ministry of Magic experience.

Super Nintendo World is progressing, but its rumored opening date may be pushed back past 2020. Mario Kart AR, a

Donkey Kong coaster, and a Yoshi uni-mover are all still on the table for the land. Kid Zone is rumored to close this winter to make way for the new land.

Disney

Animal Kingdom's DinoLand USA and Dinosaur are rumored to be on the chopping block for an Indiana Jones ride and themed area. I'm skeptical of the rumor from a thematic perspective, but stranger things have happened.

Epcot's Imagination pavilion is rumored to be overhauled as a Pixar pavilion. The Wonders of Life pavilion is rumored to be up for removal to make room for the coming Guardians of the Galaxy attraction and Mission: Space restaurant.

With the Marvel land expansion coming to Disney California Adventure in the space surrounding Mission: Breakout, comes a rumor of what this may entail. A Captain America roller coaster is rumored, as well as a version of the Iron Man Experience from Hong Kong Disneyland.

Busch Gardens

Merlin Entertainment, a U.K.-based company that owns Legoland and an assortment of attractions on International Drive, has expressed interest in purchasing Busch Gardens from SeaWorld Entertainment. If this sale goes through, we may see an influx in money being spent on new projects. A new hotel is rumored for Busch Gardens Tampa. We've heard a project planned for the old Gwazi roller coaster space is coming together, but commencement may be delayed as the fiscal aspect of the park is being restructured. Perhaps a sale to Merlin would also result in an increased budget for Howl-O-Scream?

DISCLAIMER

The thoughts expressed here are not purported as fact and should be viewed as hearsay until officially confirmed or denied by the companies mentioned.

Have a rumor, comment, or question? Send them our way at info@attractionsmagazine.com. You can also strike up a conversation with yours truly on Twitter @fowlowlerson.



MYSTERY PHOTO

WIN A PRIZE!

Tell us which park you can find this stone lantern in and which part of the park. To enter, e-mail your answer, along with your name and mailing address to mystery@attractionsmagazine.com.

Hint: The answer can be found in our Spring 2017 issue.

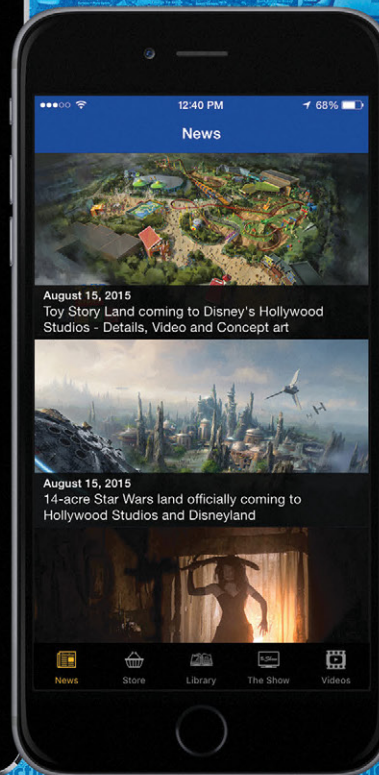
The deadline for entries is Nov. 10, 2017. One answer allowed per person, per issue. Please include your name and mailing address with your answer. Everyone who submits the correct location will go into a drawing. One person, randomly selected from all the correct entries, will win a prize. We reserve the right to publish the name, city and state of those entering. One winner per household allowed per year.



LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWER

Congratulations to Brandi Jenkins from Greenville, S.C. She recognized Elisa as riding The Freedom Flyer roller coaster at Fun Spot America in Orlando.

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OUT OF THE LOOP

Attractions News from Outside the Orlando Area

By Andy Guinigundo



Classic Attractions Reopen at Disneyland

Disneyland, Anaheim, Calif. – Many attractions around the Rivers of America section of Disneyland park have been closed during the ongoing construction of Star Wars Land. These included Mark Twin Riverboat, Sailing Ship Columbia, the Davy Crockett's Explorer Canoes, Fantasmic!, and the iconic Disneyland Railroad. Construction is now complete and one by one, these attractions have reopened. The last of these to reopen, the railroad, is one of Disneyland's original attractions. While closed, Imagineers took the opportunity to update the indoor Grand Canyon Diorama and Primeval World scenes just prior to entering the Main Street Station. The biggest changes, however, occurred in the Rivers of America section just beyond the New Orleans Square Station. New views from both sides of the train are evident. The Columbia Gorge scene is all new. The train crosses a picturesque trestle and for the first time, takes a left turn. Multiple waterfalls and rock formations have been added and provide a new backdrop through this area. The Disneyland Railroad is once again providing a "Grand Circle Tour" of Disneyland.

Busch Gardens Trading Movie Screen for VR Headsets

Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia – Virtual reality is a technology that has been making its way into theme parks the last few years. Older roller coasters have been retro-fitted with VR headsets with the action seen in the headset matching the course of the coaster. Busch Gardens Williamsburg is in the process of creating North America's first VR motion simulator. The former attraction, Europe in the Air, was a motion simulator like ones used in flight simulators to train pilots. Previously, the motion simulator was positioned in front of a large movie screen. The unnamed attraction will have an Irish theme, but details have been sparse. A promo video has stated there are "two worlds in Ireland" – the one we know, and the one not visible to humans. It sounds like we will be exploring this other world next year.

Cedar Point Announces Record-Breaking Coaster

Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio - It was nearly a year ago that Cedar Point's epic wooden coaster Mean Streak made its circuit for the last time. Since then, much speculation has swirled regarding what would replace that beast.



Cedar Point went so far as to remind enthusiasts that Cedar Point is private property and that driving to that far end of the point to take a look was prohibited, especially during winter months. In August, it was finally announced that Steel Vengeance, a "hyper-hybrid" coaster, would be replacing Mean Streak's. Some of Mean Streak's wood and framework have been salvaged, but new wooden construction most definitely has taken place. This is being combined with track technology whose ride resembles that of a traditional steel coaster, and allows for extreme banking and inversions. Hence, hybrid, in this case, means steel track on a wood base. The "hyper" term has been used to describe coasters more than 200 feet tall, as this one will be, making it the world's first hyper-hybrid. Cedar Point Vice President Jason McClure stated, "This is another roller coaster that only Cedar Point could build - tallest, fastest, and longest of its kind with four inversions and the exciting move-

ments the hybrid design can achieve". Statistically, it will be 205 feet tall, travel 74 mph, and descend 90 degrees over a 5,740 foot long track. After well over a year of construction, the coaster is planned to open next year.

Hersheypark to Add Two Water Park Attractions

Hersheypark, Hershey, Penn. – Hersheypark has announced the addition of two water park attractions for 2018. The Breakers Edge water coaster is the first hydromagnetic coaster to have "flying saucer" turns. It is being described as Hersheypark's 14th coaster. The Whitecap Racer will be the longest mat racing water slide in the world. It will have six lanes and two sets of looping tunnels. The two rides will add 40,000 gallons of water to The Boardwalk water park located inside Hersheypark. Admission to the water park is included with regular park admission. This investment is the biggest for the water park in nearly a decade. The attractions are expected to be open by Memorial Day.

..... Six Flags to Add First of its Kind Wonder Woman Coaster

Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio, Texas – Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster will be full of firsts. Technologically speaking, this is the first coaster announced to utilize the



"Raptor" single rail track. The track and accompanying single seat trains are capable of a full array of coaster maneuvers. Speaking of maneuvers, the new coaster will climb a 113-foot hill just before a 100-foot, 90-degree drop. Additionally, it will feature two airtime hills, a 180-degree stall, overbanked wave turns, a zero-g roll and a steep uphill spiral. DC Comics has been part of Six Flags for a long time. Heroes and villains alike have many themed rides, specifically coasters, including Batman, Superman, The Joker and more. Wonder Woman Golden Lasso will be the first roller coaster to feature the heroine. Artist renditions of the ride show bright yellow track with red supports and the likeness of Wonder Woman prominent in the theming. The ride is expected to open next year.



'Luxury Waterpark' Announced for Gaylord Opryland Resort

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn. – A \$90 million investment will be used to create SoundWaves, a luxury indoor and outdoor waterpark adjacent to the resort. The site will be split into a 111,000-square-foot indoor section and a 106,000-square-foot outdoor section. The indoor side will cover three floors and have the soaring atrium characteristic of Gaylord properties. There will be dedicated areas to adults including adult-only pools as well as areas for young children and families. Some of the features announced include lazy and rapid rivers, water slides, a double FlowRider, wave pool, and a kids area with a multi-level play structure. The area is expected to open next fall with the indoor area open year-round.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ATTRACTION!

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Universal Studios Florida

Before you find your way into Diagon Alley at Universal Orlando, look up in the windows in the London area. You may find a Kreacher pulling back the curtains to stare at you.



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